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**Cubs' Maddux
22nd to reach
300 career wins**

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GI's comic view
of life in Iraq**

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MONDAY, AUGUST 9, 2004

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Iraqi government brings back capital punishment

Unclear if death penalty's return affects Saddam Page 3

Far from the skies

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Often in unfamiliar tasks, airmen have stories to tell about Iraq duty



DENNIS J. HENRY JR./Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force



CRAIG CLAPPER/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Left: Senior Airman Matthew Diaz, of the 407th Air Expeditionary Group, Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron/Force Protection, watches over a couple of local nationals last month while they renovate the new 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron building on Tallil Air Base, Iraq. Right: Tech. Sgt. David Cunningham, left, and Senior Airman Shawn Stites, of the 407th Expeditionary Security Forces, look over an M240 automatic on the gunner seat of a Humvee at Tallil.

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Mosque raids: An attorney for a mosque leader accused of plotting to obtain a shoulder-fired grenade launcher in New York said he may defend his client by arguing that authorities entrapped him.

Yassin Muhiddin Aref, 34, was arrested Thursday and charged with aiding a government informant in a fake plot to buy the weapon to assassinate a Pakistani diplomat. Aref is the imam of the Masjid As-Salam mosque in Albany. Also arrested was Mohammed Mosharef Hossain, 49, one of the mosque's founders.

Anthrax probe: FBI agents searched a car on Saturday belonging to the bioterrorism expert whose homes were raided earlier this week by federal agents investigating the 2001 anthrax attacks.

Agents examined the car Saturday at the Connellsville Airport, about 30 miles southeast of Pittsburgh, said Frank Sero, a lineman at the airport.

Dr. Kenneth M. Berry, who lives in western New York but has family in the Connellsville area, kept the car at the airport to use when he was there, Sero said.

Nader campaign: Ralph Nader failed to gather enough signatures to make the ballot in California as an independent presidential candidate, but his campaign said Saturday it will keep trying to get the consumer activist's name before the state's voters in November.

State election officials said Nader fell far short of the 153,035 signatures needed by Friday's deadline. He submitted 82,923 with 56 of the state's 58 counties reporting, said Lauren Hersh, a spokeswoman for the secretary of state's office.

Steinberg case: Joel Steinberg, free after serving nearly 17 years in the beating death of his 6-year-old adopted daughter, still describes himself as "a good father" and said he pushed the girl but did not hit her, in an interview with New York magazine.

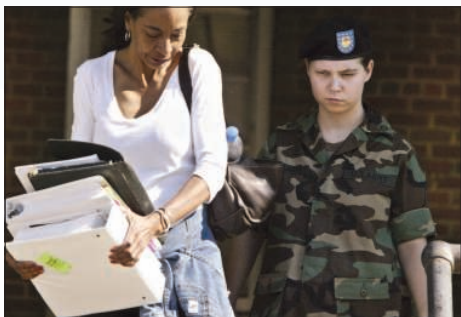
Steinberg served two-thirds of the maximum 25-year sentence after he was convicted of killing Lisa Steinberg. The girl died in November 1987, three days after she was brutally beaten in the apartment Steinberg shared with his lover, Hedda Nussbaum, who also had been beaten.

World

Serb war crimes: Serbia-Montenegro, seeking to improve cooperation with the U.N. war crimes court, is considering allowing select former officials to share classified information when they testify, a Serbian news agency reported Sunday.

Minorities and Human Rights Minister Rasim Ljajic said his country's National Council for Cooperation with the Netherlands-based U.N. court would meet Wednesday to discuss removing legal barriers preventing former officials from discussing state secrets, the Belgrade-based Beta news agency said.

South Asia flooding: Mudslides caused by heavy monsoon rains trapped workers building a tunnel in northern India on Sunday as 41 more deaths were reported across South Asia, taking the death toll to 1,972 in a season of rain destruction, officials said.



England hearing: Pfc. Lyndie England, right, and defense team member Kathleen Johnson leave the Staff Judge Advocate Building at Fort Bragg, N.C., on Saturday after the fifth day of England's Article 32 hearing. The hearing into whether England should be court-martialed in the Abu Ghraib scandal was abruptly postponed Saturday after defense attorneys argued that another prison guard should be allowed to testify that military intelligence officers sponsored and carried out much of the abuse at the Iraqi prison. England's lawyers also asked to present dozens of other defense witnesses, including Vice President Dick Cheney.

forces and the Maoist guerrillas in months.



A boy runs to get drinking water Friday in Dhaka, Bangladesh, where flooding has left some 20 million people in need of food for next five months.

Hundreds of rescuers were trying to reach the 20 workers near Kulu in Himachal Pradesh state, 235 miles north of New Delhi, said Navin Kumar, an engineer for the Patel Construction Company, which is building the tunnel.

Missing Kuwaitis: Authorities said Sunday they have identified the remains of 12 Kuwaitis who were among hundreds missing since the Iraqi invasion of this country 14 years ago and the Gulf War that ended it seven months later.

The remains were found in mass graves in neighboring Iraq after the war that toppled Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein over a year ago. The search for 438 others, including non-Kuwaiti residents, continues.

Philippine fighting: The Philippines government will not propose a long-term truce with communist rebels in upcoming peace talks because the insurgents would not be expected to accept such an offer, a state negotiator said Sunday.

The downbeat outlook for the weeklong talks starting Aug. 24 in Oslo, Norway, comes after 21 people were killed last week in the worst clashes between government

German terror trial: Germany is pressing U.S. authorities to allow testimony from terror suspects in their custody at the upcoming retrial of a man accused of helping the Sept. 11 suicide pilots, saying that it could effect the balance of the proceedings, the country's chief prosecutor said in a report released Saturday.

Federal prosecutor Kay Nehr said his office had impressed upon the United States the need for the witnesses in its case against Moumir el Motassadeh, who was granted a retrial in March after an appeals court ruled he was unfairly denied the testimony of Ramzi Binalshibh and Khalid Shaikh Mohammed.

Israeli coalition talks: The moderate Labor Party moved closer to joining Ariel Sharon's hardline government after coalition talks yielded written agreement on key peacemaking issues, including a more detailed timetable for a Gaza withdrawal, Labor leader Shimon Peres said Sunday.

However, Labor legislators cautioned that sharp disagreements remain over economic issues, including what one party official called the "piggyback capitalism" of the Sharon government.

Chechnya in turmoil: Chechnya's Kremlin-backed presidential candidate on Sunday gave an unusually blunt report on life in the war-torn region, noting that unemployment is high, kidnappings abound and much of the federal money dedicated to restoring Chechnya has never arrived.

"Unemployment and poor living conditions are forcing people to join criminal groups," said Ali Akhmedov, the overwhelming favorite to win the region's Aug. 29 presidential election, which critics say is little more than a carefully staged Kremlin show.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

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Iraqi government reinstates death penalty

BY SAMEER YACOB

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq on Sunday reinstated its suspended capital punishment law for people guilty of murder, endangering national security and distributing drugs, the government announced.

The announcement came a day after the government offered an amnesty to Iraqis who committed minor crimes after the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime last year. The two laws were part of a carrot-and-stick approach by the government to try to coax some insurgents to lay down their arms while beefing up its ability to punish those that refused.

Capital punishment had been suspended during the U.S. occupation, which ended with a transfer of power to the interim government June 28. Under Saddam's regime, some 114 offenses could garner the death penalty. The new law was more restrictive than the previous death penalty.

"This is not an open door to execute anyone and everyone, or people whom the government dislikes. This is not Saddam's law," Minister of State Adnan al-Janabi said. "There is no attempt and no hint that we want to punish political differences. We want to bring peace and security to the country."

In announcing the law, al-Janabi and

Human Rights Minister Bakhtiar Amin said they respected bringing back executions, but they were needed to fight the militants destabilizing the country with car bombings, kidnappings, sabotage and other violence.

"The tough task in front of us in this country is maintaining security and stability," Amin said. "I assure you that none of us in the government are comfortable with reinstating capital punishment."

When security returns to the country, the law will be revoked, they said.

It was unclear how the new death penalty law would affect Saddam, who is current-

ly awaiting trial on war crimes charges, and it was not clear whether the death penalty would apply to people who had committed crimes during its suspension.

The law also did not specify how the executions were to be carried out, or if they were to be done publicly or privately.

Prior to the death sentence's reintroduction, the maximum punishment for major crimes was 30 years jail.

The European Union had appealed to the interim government not to reinstate the death penalty, but its request was rebuffed.

"We have taken this measure to impose the rule of law and to let Iraqi people know that their lives count," Amin said.



Fighters loyal to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr carry their weapons during clashes Sunday with U.S. forces and Iraqi National guards in the holy Muslim city of Najaf, 100 miles south of Baghdad.

Iraqi prime minister asks Najaf militants to put down weapons

BY ABDUL HUSSEIN AL-OBEDI

The Associated Press

NAJAF, Iraq — Protected by 100 guards, Iraq's interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi visited the war-shattered city of Najaf on Sunday, calling on Shiite militants to lay down their weapons after days of fierce clashes with U.S. forces.

But even as Allawi met with Najaf's governor, police and the Mahdi Army militia loyal to Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr battled nearby. Gunfire and explosions could be heard as U.S. helicopter gunships circled overhead. Two Iraqi national guardsmen were killed, and 13 people wounded.

"We think that those armed should leave the holy sites and the (Imam Ali Shrine compound) as well as leave their weapons and abide by the law," Allawi said during a one-hour visit for talks with Najaf Gov. Adnan al-Zurfi.

Clashes continued in other Shiite communities for the fourth straight day. In Baghdad's Shiite neighborhood of Sadr City, four people were killed, and three U.S. soldiers were wounded in fighting Sunday. A U.S. observation helicopter came under fire and had to make an emergency landing, though the crew was unharmed.

Also Sunday, militants said they took a top Iranian diplomat hostage, according to video shown on the Arab-language Al-Arabiya television station. The tape showed a bearded man identified as Faridun Jihani speaking to the camera, though his voice was not audible. The video also showed his identification, passport and a business card identifying him as the "consul for the Islamic Republic of Iran in Karbala," in southern Iraq city.

The kidnappers, calling themselves the "Islamic Army in Iraq," accused Jihani of provoking sectarian war in Iraq and warned Iran not to interfere in Iraq's affairs, according to Al-Arabiya.

The kidnappers made no demands, the report said.

Militants — mainly thought to be Sunni Muslim insurgents — have taken scores of foreigners hostage in recent months, trying to drive coalition troops out of Iraq and hamper reconstruction efforts.

With Allawi's government still

fighting Sunni guerrillas elsewhere in the country, the fierce battles in Najaf have raised fears of the revival of an insurrection among Iraq's Shiite majority. Al-Sadr's Mahdi Army revolted in April and fought for two months until a series of truces calmed the violence.

After heavy fighting in Najaf on Thursday and Friday, Shiite leaders have been trying to restore the truce, and clashes have eased Saturday and Sunday — but not stopped.

On Saturday, national guard troops chased al-Sadr militiamen who had attacked a police patrol to the cleric's house. The guardsmen raided the house and detained the attackers who had taken refuge there, said Lt. Aqil Khalil, a guardsman. Al-Sadr was not present at the time.

Chalabi wanted by Iraq

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq has issued an arrest warrant for Ahmad Chalabi, a former governing council member, on counterfeiting charges and another for Salem Chalabi, the head of Iraq's special tribunal, on murder charges, Iraq's chief investigating judge said Sunday.

The warrants, issued Saturday, accused Ahmad Chalabi of counterfeiting old Iraqi dinars — which had been removed from circulation following the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime last year, Judge Zuhair al-Malkiy said.

Ahmad Chalabi appeared to have been hiding the counterfeit money amid other old money and changing it into new dinars in the street, he said.

Police found the counterfeit money along with old dinars in Ahmad Chalabi's house during a May raid, he said. Salem Chalabi, Ahmad Chalabi's nephew and the head of the tribunal trying Saddam, was named as a suspect in the June murder of the Haithem Fadhl, director general of the finance ministry.

Both men were reportedly out of the country Sunday.

The Najaf fighting Sunday also slightly wounded Mu'ayyad Mohsen, an editor working for Al-Arabiya, according to station officials.

Allawi arrived in Najaf backed by a tough security contingent, made up of U.S. forces, foreign security contractors, Iraqi National Guard troops and Iraqi police. Al-Sadr's Mahdi Army delegation — including his interior and defense ministers and national security adviser — did not meet with al-Sadr or any of his aides.

Allawi said there were no plans to arrest al-Sadr, but he said they "do not use violence" until al-Sadr's militia laid down its arms. He was optimistic the violence would cease.

"There are some elements who have broken the law and hurt this city," Allawi said. "The situation will be defused soon."

A government deadline for militants to withdraw from Najaf expired Saturday, but Mahdi Army fighters maintained a heavy presence in the old city, where masked men carrying automatic rifles and rocket-propelled grenade launchers searched cars at checkpoints. The Mahdi Army controls the Imam Ali Shrine compound in the old city, one of Shia Islam's holiest sites.

"We are trying to defend our country. We are not going to leave Najaf or any other city," Allawi said. "The al-Sadr is an al-Sadr in Baghdad." The occupiers are the ones who should leave Najaf and rest of Iraq."

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, Aug. 6, 922 U.S. servicemembers have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 685 died as a result of hostile action and 237 died of non-hostile causes. The department did not provide an update Saturday.

The British military has reported 61 deaths. Italy has reported 61 deaths, three; Poland, seven; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, four; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 784 U.S. servicemembers have died — 576 as a result of hostile action and 208 of

non-hostile causes, according to the Defense Department on Friday.

The latest deaths reported by U.S. Central Command:

■ A U.S. soldier was killed in a grenade attack Friday in Baghdad.

■ Two Marines were killed Friday in attacks in Najaf.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Marine Sgt. Moses D. Rocha, 33, Roswell, N.M., died Thursday of injuries from an attack in Najaf, assigned to Battalion Landing Team 1/4, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Larry L. Wells, 22, Mount Herman, La., died Friday in an attack in Najaf, assigned to Unit Battalion Landing Team 1/4, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

GI illustrates life in Iraq with "Bohica Blues"

Reservist's cartoons detail burdens of desert deployment

BY JASON CHUDY

Stars and Stripes

Bill Mauldin, meet the "Bohica Blues."

Like the famed creator of World War II's Willie and Joe comic strip, Staff Sgt. Chris Grant is putting pen and ink on paper to humorously capture the feelings, desires and daily routine of soldiers deployed to Iraq.

Grant, an Army Reserve combat engineer with Company B, 458th Engineer Battalion at Camp Victory North, has been drawing "Bohica Blues" since the unit's arrival on March 15.

"By March 18, I had the first one," Grant said. "We were the first unit here and the very first ones were specific to the 458th."

Since then, Grant has broadened the comic's scope to include issues affecting all Camp Victory soldiers.

"As more units came, I expanded them to include everybody," he said.

And like Mauldin, Grant doesn't pull punches on issues that draw the ire of today's Willie and Joe.

Bohica, for example, is an acronym that stands for "bend over, here it comes again."

"In the Army, there's always something going on that seems silly to the soldier... like anytime you're in a vehicle you need to be in full body armor. Even mechanics," Grant said. "Maybe it makes sense to someone higher up in the food chain."

"We all know its value and need to get caught without it outside [the base]," he said. "But around here? We find humor in that. If it creates some grumbling, I like to poke fun at it."



PHOTOS BY JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

Staff Sgt. Chris Grant holds up one of his "Bohica Blues" comics, depicting Beavis and Buttthead running the Baghdad power company. Grant said that when his unit arrived at Camp Victory North, power would only be on a few hours at a time, leading him to wonder who controlled the electrical system.

Grant compared the wearing of body armor to having a "personal microwave oven."

When the 1st Cavalry Division

issued orders that soldiers wear their desert camouflage uniform tops at all times, including during working details, Grant drew a comic depicting a DCU-clad skeleton face down in the desert.

As a soldier kneels over the skeleton, another calls out from a nearby Humvee, "No, no, as he had his DCU top on, it's fine."

"A lot poke fun at uniforms," said Staff Sgt. Cory Chartier, who stopped to look at two "Bohica Blues" comics posted on a wall near the exit of Victory North's dining facility.

Chartier said he's made decisions on whether or not to eat at the dining facility based on whether or not there are new comics posted. "He's nailed what we're thinking... without being degrading," he said.



Grant also tries to represent the varied makeup of today's Army.

"I don't want to alienate anyone," he said. "I try to draw people in proportion and make sure different ethnic backgrounds are in there."

And it's the ordinary soldier who Grant wants "Bohica Blues" to appeal to.

"What he's able to do is capture, like Bill Mauldin's cartoons of World War II, the perspective of the soldier," said Maj. Adam Roth, the battalion executive officer. "He takes what we hear and turns it into something you can see. It's a great way to laugh at yourself."

"I try to cover a little of everything," Grant said. "In general, I keep it to a PG-13 rating so it's something the soldiers can show to their families."

His comics infuse every aspect of the soldier, including life "back home."

One cartoon depicts a returned G.I. reading a "three little pigs" nursery rhyme to his son. The soldier describes the third pig's house as being surrounded by defensive barriers and covered by air support.

"I've got a story right now where a character goes on leave and relates his stories back home," Grant said.

To Mom and Dad, the soldier

describes Iraq as a quiet, safe place; to his friends it's filled with danger at every turn; to the girlfriend he's a hero; and to Grandma, Iraq's a place where you can't get any good food.

Grant's been drawing since he was a young child, becoming serious with his hobby when he was 8 and saw Star Wars for the first time. "It sparked my imagination," he said.

When he enlisted and was stationed at Fort Carson, Colo., Grant wrote a cartoon called "Joe Rock." Following his enlistment, he joined the reserves, working as an illustrator for a psychological operations unit. Later, Grant changed jobs and joined a tank crew, but still continued to draw.

In the 1990s, Grant wrote and illustrated a graphic novel with human-like animals as characters. He hopes to write another graphic novel in the future and would like to be a

full-time cartoonist, but says there's not enough money in it.

Since his arrival in Iraq, Grant's been putting pen to paper nearly every day, only stopping "Bohica Blues" during a few-month stint at Camp Cook, north of Baghdad. He says he'll continue to draw the comic as long as he's deployed.

"I just want to give people a few seconds to laugh," he said.

E-mail Jason Chudy at: chudy@mail.strips.com

Stripes Spotlight

Staff Sgt. Chris Grant

Grant is an Army Reserve combat engineer and a cartoonist who draws comics depicting soldiers' lives on Camp Victory North in Baghdad. He served in the 1st Battalion, 12th Regiment, at Ft. Carson, Colo., between 1986 and 1989 and has been an Army Reservist since then.

Age: 36
Hometown: Boise, Idaho

Stars and Stripes

Volunteers in Maryland send care packages to troops serving overseas

The Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS JUNCTION, Md. — Every day, insurgents hit William Smith's convoy as his National Guard unit traveled the sandy roads of Iraq, delivering food and water to the Marines.

The medic's luck held until April 26, when a roadside bomb exploded, sending Smith, 26, across his vehicle's windshield and injuring his back. His days now revolve

around recovering at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington.

On Friday, Smith, of Old Orchard Beach, Maine, volunteered to help load care packages for soldiers still overseas.

He was one of about 100 people who spent the day loading toothbrushes, calling cards, lip balm, wipes, desert bandanas, playing cards and other reminders of home as part of a USO effort at Fort Meade.

Some of the volunteers were military members from other branch of the armed services.

Smith was joined by Army Guard Sgt. David Miller, of Peterborough, N.H., and Army Reserve Staff Sgt. Richard Rodriguez, of Long Island, N.Y. Both men were injured in accidents.

"The tradition is when your country is at war, everyone comes together," Gov. Robert Ehrlich said. "This is what America is all about."

Army engineers dig in to revive Baghdad park

By JASON CHUDY

Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD — Muhan Hassan Mizal al-Saadi sat in the doorway of his grilled fish restaurant Friday, taking in the early afternoon heat and haze along Abu Nuwas street in the city's Rusafa neighborhood.

The sound of Iraqi voices and drone of passing vehicles were occasionally overpowered by the rumble of Army engineers' construction equipment working on the riverside park behind al-Saadi's restaurant.

Although the engineers from the Army Reserve's 458th, 411th, and 980th engineer battalions and the Arkansas National Guard's 239th Engineer Company produce large clouds of dirt, al-Saadi couldn't be happier.

He believes today's dust is tomorrow's prosperity for his restaurant and the handful of others bordering the park.

Nearly five dozen soldiers have been clearing and grading land in the nearly mile-long, 100-meter-wide park, which runs along the east bank of the Tigris river in Rusafa, one of the city's oldest neighborhoods, for the past few weeks.

They are in the second phase of a three-phase project that is hoped to revive the once neglected park and again make it a gathering place for Baghdad's citizens.

"During the 1980s, this street used to be the traditional point [for people to gather]," al-Saadi said through an interpreter. "They would come and have



PHOTOS BY JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

Sgt. Felinar Guillermo watches from his bulldozer as a crane rips out concrete and rebar from a park fountain in Baghdad's Rusafa neighborhood. The two, members of the Army Reserve's 411th Engineer Battalion, are part of the nearly five dozen engineers working on the riverside park, which is expected to reopen to the public in November.

grilled fish."

Behind al-Saadi sat a tank filled with Tigris River carp.

"But lately, during the 1990s, this part was forgotten," he said. "No people would come and visit because of events of the Gulf War and the following Iraqi crisis."

After coalition forces captured Baghdad last year, Abu Nuwas became even more isolated as barriers

sprung up around the nearby Palestine and Sheraton hotels, cutting off the two-lane road from nearly all traffic.

The on-site project engineer, 1st Lt. Brian Mason, said that this project was undertaken after being requested by Baghdad's mayor, Alaa al-Tamimi, who has recently called for the removal of all defensive barriers around the

city.

Rusafa, however, is slowly returning to normal with each pass of the engineer's grader or truckload of debris hauled off the site.

Mason said the first phase included the removal of wire and barriers from the park and nearby Firdos Square, the site where Marines helped Iraqis tear down a large statue of Saddam Hussein in the initial days of Baghdad's capture.

During the on-going second phase, which started July 14 and is expected to finish later this month, the engineers are removing

damaged concrete fountains and regarding the park's land in preparation for the final phase.

Mason said that this project will probably be the best-remembered part of the engineers' tour in Iraq.

"They're going to remember these two months most of all and say it was worth being here just for this," he said. "When we get a project like this we get to see the fruits of our labor. It makes a positive impact on the local area."

"We're doing what we were trained for," said the 411th's Spc. Seth Fillmore, who was a college student in Hawaii before being mobilized. "It's visible proof that we're helping the Iraqis."

The 51-year-old al-Saadi said he greatly appreciates the engineers' work. "I can see these people came from far away to help us," he said. "I am looking with my own eyes and see they are doing a great job."

He has worked in the restaurant since the 1960s. Inducted into the Iraqi army for the 1980 Iran-Iraq war, al-Saadi said he was captured and spent 18 years as an Iranian prisoner. He only returned to the Abu Nuwas street restaurant five years ago.

Al-Saadi said he's seen more progress in the area in the past five months than in the previous five years.

The final phase, which will run for two months starting around September 1, is the landscaping of the park by Iraqi gardeners.

Mason said officials hope to officially open the park on Nov. 1, none too soon for al-Saadi.

"I hope that this will be more than it used to be," he said. "We will feel the smile come back to the faces of the Iraqi people."

E-mail Jason Chudy at: chudyj3@mail.strips.esd.mil



Muhan Hassan Mizal al-Saadi sits in the doorway of his grilled fish restaurant on Friday. Behind the restaurant, Army engineers are in the second phase of the project to renovate and re-open the park on the east bank of the Tigris River.

al-Saadi is in the second phase of the project to renovate and re-open the park on the east bank of the Tigris River.

al-Saadi is in the second phase of the project to renovate and re-open the park on the east bank of the Tigris River.

Marine feared beheaded thankful to be with family

WEST JORDAN, Utah — The U.S. Marine once feared beheaded in Iraq said last week he was thankful to be home and asked people to pray for all hostages.

Wassef Ali Hassoun returned to his brother's suburban home a week ago, but did not speak publicly.

Recently, Hassoun made a brief statement on the front lawn of the house before rejoining his family inside. He thanked family and friends, and those who helped him since his return.

"Having experienced being in captivity, I ask all the people of the world to join me and pray for the safe release of all hostages," he said. "People who already know me and those of you getting to know me, know that I'm proud to be a Muslim Arab-American serving with honor."

Hassoun, 24, failed to report for duty June 20, and videotape later surfaced showing him apparently kidnapped, blindfolded with a sword hanging over his head.

He later turned up at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut.

From The Associated Press

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Far from the skies, airmen fulfill Iraq duty

Called on to provide security and other tasks, Air Force members serve alongside soldiers, Marines

BY RON JENSEN

Stars and Stripes

They ride shotgun on convoys, detonate unexploded ordnance and guard the gates of bases.

They build roads and process troops entering and leaving Iraq. They do jobs typical of their Air Force duty and jobs once thought far from the flying service's purview.

The 5,500 Air Force members now serving inside Iraq are happy that they rarely grab the unfortunate headlines of the Army and Marine Corps. And their

deployments last a fraction of the time as those of the soldiers and leathernecks.

But they are there, side by side with soldiers and Marines in many cases, from all corners of the Air Force globe.

And their death total of 11, along with 60 wounded by hostile action since the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom, seems low compared to their uniformed brethren, but that is often a matter of luck.

Close calls are frequent. Nearly everyone has a story to tell.

Here are a few snapshots of Air Force personnel in Iraq gleaned from telephone interviews arranged by public affairs officers.

Master Sgt. Martin Lund

Randolph Air Force Base, Texas

Lund provides security for convoys traveling the dangerous roads of Iraq. It is, perhaps, the least Air Force-like job being done by airmen downrange. In fact, those who do it are called airmen-soldiers.

"Convoy training is a small part of our Air Force career training, but not convoy training like this," said Lund, who is in Mosul. "This is combat convoys, armed and ready. This is the first time the Air Force has ever done anything like this."

Frequently the convoy commander, Lund said the travel can take hours, even requiring an overnight at the destination. The Iraqi trucks used in the nearly-daily convoys frequently break down, he said, adding to the time on the road.

In the 732nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group, convoys are attacked about every other day, either by mortars, rockets, small-arms fire or roadside bombs, which can be hidden in anything from a dead animal to a water bottle.

"The threat has increased significantly in the past two months," he said.

"It is an invisible enemy we are up against and very frustrating." He has been on 12 convoys that were attacked, but many airmen have seen more than twice that many encounters with the bad boys in Iraq. Lund has seen the vehicle in front of him hit and the vehicle behind him struck.

If the enemy is spotted, the troops engage it. If not, they get out of the area. Most often, the enemy hits and runs.

"We are not involved in stand-offs very often, but when we are, we are very successful," he said. "But our main job as transporters is to deliver our supplies, not [perform] as infantry."

"Many of our folks have had firefighting with the enemy and it can get brutal."

Tech. Sgt. Patrick Neubeck

Kirkland Air Force Base, Albuquerque, N.M.

Neubeck, of the 887th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, processes passengers, both



DENNIS J. HENRY JR./Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Senior Airman Matthew Diaz, of the 407th Air Expeditionary Group, Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron/Force Protection, and a worksite foreman watch a couple of local nationals at the cement plant on Tallil Air Base last month.

Senior Airman Matthew Diaz

Langley Air Force Base, Va.

Diaz is an avionics technician trained to keep F-15 Eagles in the air. But in Iraq, he keeps watch on Iraqis who work on Tallil Air Base in southern Iraq.

"I'm really out of my job specialty, but I love every minute of it," Diaz said.

He keeps watch on the local nationals who repair roads, clean latrines, patch holes in the flight line and a variety of other jobs on the base.

"It's all performed under the watchful eye of troops such as Diaz. "We make sure they don't gather any intel on us," he said. They watch to ensure the workers are simply that — workers — and not insurgents in disguise.

"We take it very seriously in force protection," he said.

those coming and those going. During the time they are in his charge, he is responsible for their safety.

Sometimes the mortar attacks that arrive suddenly at Balad Air Base occur during Neubeck's processing. His responsibility is to make sure the passengers reach shelter.

"Instead of worrying about yourself, you have to worry about the people around you," he said.

Neubeck said the best part of his job, which sometimes requires travel to other bases in Iraq, is processing passengers who are leaving Iraq, especially when the customers are soldiers who have endured one year or more in the desert.

"It's an awesome feeling," he said of helping the anxious troops start the homeward journey. He

tells them, "I don't want you here as much as you don't want to be here."

"I count my blessings that I don't have to do what they're doing," he said. "I have tremendous respect for them."

Master Sgt. Dennis Ross

Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C.

Ross, like Lund, is more soldier than airman in Iraq. Based in Mosul, he also provides security on supply convoys. He attended two weeks of training at Fort Eustis, Va., before deploying.

"The class was a condensed version of the four-month-long class for Army transportation officers," he said. In Iraq, the training

SEE AIRMEN ON PAGE 8



CRAIG CLAPPER/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Tech. Sgt. David Cunningham, of 407th Expeditionary Security Forces, looks out for bad guys along the perimeter of Tallil Air Base, Iraq. Cunningham frequently checks his patrols inside and outside the wire, making sure they are properly equipped and doing well.

"I'm definitely proud to be here. They're going to teach about this in history books for years."

Tech. Sgt. David Cunningham

Tech. Sgt. David Cunningham

Seymour-Johnson Air Force Base, N.C.

As assistant flight chief with the 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron at Tallil Air Base, Cunningham is frequently checking on his patrols both inside and outside the wire, making sure they are properly equipped and doing well.

In doing that, he frequently comes in contact with the Bedouin farmers who live in the area.

Their way of life has changed little for centuries, he said. Take away the truck that is sometimes parked near the tent and it could be a walk back in time, he said, adding, "It's like reading out of the Bible."

The patrols are necessary despite the relative calm at Tallil, where more than 800 airmen live and work. Cunningham admits the base enjoys less risk than other bases in Iraq.

"We don't have anything near what's going on up north," he said of the frequent attacks on other bases.

Nonetheless, he said he feels a part of something big and important and something that will be remembered.

"I'm definitely proud to be here," he said. "They're going to teach about this in history books for years."

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Airmen: 'A mission and a purpose'

AIRMAN, FROM PAGE 6

continued, including some live-fire work on the range with machine guns and the Squad Automatic Weapon.

"All the training we received was well outside the scope of any training that I have received in the Air Force," he said.

A platoon sergeant, Ross said members of his platoon are on the road daily.

"At the beginning of our deployment, it was rare for a convoy to be attacked," he said. "Lately, our convoys have been getting attacked several times a week."

Tech. Sgt. Ed Cook

Yokota Air Base, Japan

An Air Force News reporter, Cook travels frequently with Army units to tell their story via American Forces Network-Iraq.

"It's our job to tell other people's stories," said Cook, who lives in the International Zone (formerly known as the Green Zone) of Baghdad.

He has his own story. On July 4, while he was living at Baghdad International Airport a rocket hit 100 feet from his tent, paralyzing one person.

"Before I came here, I was really nervous," he said. "Surprisingly, I've taken it pretty well."

When he travels on patrols and convoys to do the stories that are his job, he thinks about the danger, he said. He keeps a round in the chamber of his weapon, in case he needs it.

But he also has gained a perspective on the mission he missed while watching the news from a few thousand miles away.

"You get the sense that we really, really have a mission and a purpose," he said.



CHEN A. YOUNG/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Senior Airman Tyson Wallace, of the 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, verifies an identification card of another military personnel before allowing him to enter the flight line area of Balad Air Base.

Senior Airman Tyson Wallace

Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

Wallace, of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, was on duty at the front gate of Balad Air Base standing at the door of the guard shack, when a mortar round landed about 75 yards away.

Shrapnel rattled against the shack, but missed him. He did, however, suffer a loss.

"I lost my bug zipper. That was disappointing," he said.

But the shrapnel that demolished his zipper could have struck him just as easily.

"If you hear the boom," he said, "you know you're alive."



Master Sgt. Kent Gray

Incirlik Air Base, Turkey

Gray, a member of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, blows up ordnance in and around Balad Air Base, home to more than 2,000 Air Force members.

"We've been the busiest [explosive ordnance detachment] flight in the AOR [area of

responsibility]," he said. "It's a mission that we really haven't done a whole lot of before."

His team is called several times a week to take care of a roadside bomb.

On a mission near the Iran border, he and other EOD troops were asked to eliminate piles of explosives — "more than you can imagine." The piles stretched for miles, probably amounting to 25,000 or 30,000 pounds of

explosives.

It is common, too, to have Army EOD folks along on missions. They all attend the same schools and wear the same badge, Gray said.

And in Iraq, there is another common factor.

"We sweat the same," he said. "We sunburn the same."

Staff Sgt. James Crisp

Etelson Air Force Base, Alaska

Crisp, of the 732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, is an engineer and he doesn't care where he is, as long as he is doing engineering work.

Roads and fences, inside the wire and outside the wire. Crisp doesn't mind the long days or the heat. He doesn't even mind the potential danger.

"It's a nuisance to me. What I really want to do is survey," he said.

A highlight of this deployment for Crisp is the reunion he enjoys occasionally with his brother, Army Sgt. Samuel Crisp, an Army truck driver.

"They get together, he said, "whenever he passes through this area."

Staff Sgt. Daniel McAndrew

Incirlik Air Base, Turkey

After the mortar and rocket attacks have subsided at Balad Air Base, McAndrew, of the 332nd Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron, and others sweep the airfield to make sure it is free of unexploded ordnance.

"In this location, that's one of our highest priorities," he said.

The airfield management team also makes sure the lights work, the runway is clear of foreign objects and other duties that ensure the aircraft coming and going can do so without problems.

"We're out there all the time," said McAndrew.

McAndrew said it is not hard to keep focused on the job. They all know the dangers posed by the unexploded ordnance.

"We could be saving someone's life," he said.

E-mail Ron Jensen at: jensen@mail.estrp.osd.mil



CHEN A. YOUNG/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Second Lt. Adam Sterling, a member of the 732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, poses in front of some of the equipment that he has transported to Balad Air Base in order to help provide the Army with some additional civil engineering services.

Second Lt. Adam Sterling

Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo.

Sterling trains Air Force members in the fine art of convoy operations, turning them into airman-soldiers.

"We're going through basic soldier skills," he said from Balad Air Base. "Most of these folks have never had exposure to this kind of training. They come in eyes wide."

Airmen are important members of the many convoys that crisscross the desert of Iraq. To do that, they must be sufficiently trained in any combat skills they might need along the way.

"They've never had this kind of mission before," said Sterling of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing.

He's been in the Air Force barely one year and is a civil engineer by training.

"It's definitely career broadening, to say the least," he said.

The job puts him in close touch with the soldiers who help with the training. That, too, has been a good part of the experience.

"You get rid of the blinders and the tunnel vision," said Sterling.

"We're all on the same team here."

"The soldiers are very good people. They're out here doing one hell of a job, day in and day out."

Al-Qaida suspect handed over to Pakistan

Reported terror training camp director caught in Dubai, UAE

BY PAUL HAVEN
The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — A senior Pakistani al-Qaida operative who used to run one of the terror group's training camps in Afghanistan has been arrested in the United Arab Emirates and handed over to Pakistani officials, the information minister said Sunday.

Qari Saifullah Akhtar is in Pakistani custody, the latest in a string of major breakthroughs against the al-Qaida network. Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed told The Associated Press.

Akhtar ran an al-Qaida training camp in Rishkhor, Afghanistan, where terrorists learned kidnapping and assassination techniques, as well as traditional combat skills used by Taliban fighters in their war to win control of the country before they were ousted in late 2001.

"Yes, we can confirm that we



Pakistani Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed

have Qari Saifullah," Ahmed said.

Some 3,500 men passed through Rishkhor, a sprawling complex of shattered barracks and dusty training fields about 10 miles south of the Afghan capital, Kabul. Al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden and Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar are both believed to have visited the camp.

The camp was deserted in the hours ahead of the U.S. bombing campaign in October 2001, and Akhtar got away.

British free one arrested in terror raid

BY ROBERT BARR
The Associated Press

LONDON — Police released one terrorist suspect but continued to question 11 others arrested in a sweep earlier this week which fueled speculation of an al-Qaida plot to attack Heathrow airport.

Metropolitan police said Friday they had freed a 25-year-old man who was one of two arrested in Blackburn, northwestern England, in a series of raids on Tuesday. He was not charged, police said.

Intelligence sources have suggested that one of the British suspects, variously identified in published reports as Abu Eisa al-Hindi or Abu Musa al-Hindi, was a senior al-Qaida operative who was also involved on surveillance on prominent financial institutions in Washington and New York.

The British arrests have been linked to earlier sweeps in Pakistan, and to terrorism alerts an-

nounced last week in New York, New Jersey and Washington.

Neither the government nor the police has revealed details of the allegations against the suspects arrested in Britain.

Opposition politicians have called on the government to be more open with information about terrorist threats, making detailed statements as U.S. officials do.

But Home Secretary David Blunkett, writing in The Observer newspaper, said he would not reveal information that would undermine sources of information or jeopardize investigations.

Blunkett said detailed comments "would have merely added to the speculation, to the hype, to the desire for something to say for its own sake. In other words, to feed the news frenzy in a slack news period."

At least 20 suspected terrorists have been detained in Pakistan in the past month.

It is now used as a base by Afghan soldiers.

The information minister said Akhtar was arrested in Dubai and was handed over to Pakistan but did not specify when.

An intelligence official told AP that Akhtar was being held in the eastern Pakistani city of Lahore.

"He had a hand in various cases," Ahmed said of Akhtar, without giving any details.

Ahmed said the arrest was not

linked to the recent arrests of two other al-Qaida operatives, Ahmed Khalifa Ghailani and Mohammed Naem Noor Khan.

Information gleaned from those two arrests helped lead to a terror warning in the United States and a sweep in Britain that has netted about a dozen suspects.

About 20 suspects have been arrested in Pakistan as well.

Two South Africans arrested with Ghailani on July 25 had just

arrived from the United Arab Emirates, and several other al-Qaida suspects are believed to have traveled through that country as well.

Word of Akhtar's arrest follows news that Pakistani agents working closely with U.S. officials are searching for two north African associates of Ghailani, a Tanzanian who had a \$25 million bounty on his head for his role in the 1998 bombing of U.S. embassies in east Africa, security officials said Saturday.

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A church with a tall bell tower in a village.

A road with cyclists riding along it.

USAREUR sets up voter assistance hotline

By STEVE LIEWER
Stars and Stripes

In time for an expected boom in staff for this fall's election, U.S. Army Europe has set up a new Voting Assistance Hotline for soldiers, civilians and their families, said Maj. Brett Lindsey, voting assistance officer for the 1st Personnel Command.

Three voting-assistance officers staff the hotline from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and will return any messages left during those hours. Lindsey said it is the first time USAREUR has operated such a hotline.

"Voting Assistance Officers throughout USAREUR are preparing for a big increase in voter interest as the election day gets nearer."

Maj. Brett Lindsey

voting assistance officer for the 1st Personnel Command

The hotline opened July 20, he said, and the officers fielded "several dozen" calls in its first two weeks of operation. Most questions have come from civilians, retirees and military spouses, and topics have included the location of their nearest voting assistance

officer, where to send the Federal Post Card Applications, and what the deadline is for submitting their ballot.

"In most cases, we've been able to answer their questions in a couple of minutes," Lindsey said in an e-mail.

Absentee ballot rules vary widely from state to state, and Lindsey said many overseas military people don't bother to vote. This year, though, with issues such as the Iraq war and military transformation at the heart of the presidential race, the stakes could be enormous for servicemembers and their families.

"Many of the callers we've spoken to said they had not voted in years, but felt motivated to participate this time," Lindsey said. "Voting Assistance Officers throughout USAREUR are preparing for a big increase in voter interest, as the election day gets nearer."

The hotline number is DSN 379-9712 or commercial 06202-80-9712. Lindsey said it will remain open until Nov. 2, Election Day.

Besides calling the hotline, Lindsey said, personnel can email specific questions to USAREUR Vote at bq.1perscom.army.mil.

Additional voting information is also available on the 1st PERSCOM Website <http://www.1perscom.army.mil> or through the Federal Voting Assistance Program at <http://vote.fvap.ncr.gov> and at <http://www.fvap.gov>.

E-mail Steve Liewer at: LiewerS@mail.strips.esd.mil



JOEL CARLSON/Courtesy to Stars and Stripes

A thermal manikin is "walked" into a Navy testing room to analyze the effects of fire on clothing systems.

DOD fired up over planned Mass. thermal testing center

New building consolidates existing facilities under one roof

By LISA BURGESS
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — "Fire in the hole!"

These four words can cause panic if the flames are invading a cockpit, a tank crew compartment, or a building. Yet as the U.S. military increasingly depends on electronics, which require batteries or a combustible-fuel power source, the possibility of fire grows apace.

In an effort to speed new fireproof and flame-retardant materials for uniforms and personal gear into this hi-tech environment, the Defense Department is pulling all of its thermal test facilities under one roof at the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Mass.

"As our systems become more sophisticated and energy usage on the battlefield increases, the individual soldier is subjected to a greater risk of exposure to flame and thermal threats," Joel Carlson, a research chemist on Natick's Materials Science Team at the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Mass., said in an e-mail to Stripes.

Construction officials plan to break ground for a \$5.4 million joint-use ther-

mal test facility in January 2005, with the opening of the state-of-the-art, 12,500 square-foot building slated for 2006, according to Natick officials.

Today the DOD's thermal test facilities for clothing and material "are all over the place," including facilities in North Carolina and Massachusetts, Carlson said. "The point of [building the new center] is to bring it all under one roof."

Not only is it more "cost-effective" to have all of the Soldier System Center's fire-testing equipment in a single building, the collection will allow researchers to fire-test entire clothing ensembles, not just bits and pieces, Carlson said.

Some of the testing center's planned highlights include the following:

■ **A Propane Fire Cell:** For testing clothing's thermal characteristics, and how well material protects against flame.

■ **Thermal oven:** Provided by the Navy Clothing and Textile Research Facility, which is also located at the Soldier Systems Center, the oven will allow researchers to measure how clothing transfers heat to the skin.

■ **Test manikins:** A stationary manikin and a special "walking manikin,"

each with 122 heat sensors, can test the effect of flash fires on clothing — and the body underneath.

■ **Propane fire pit:** A 6-by-10 foot pit for testing tents and other individual equipment.

■ **Thermal radiation testing cell:** This "simulated sun" will help researchers measure very precisely, layer by layer, how the sun's ultraviolet, visible and near-infrared radiation affects uniforms, linings, and closures, so they can develop sun-protective coatings and applications.

■ **Carbon dioxide laser cell:** Another evaluation tool for researchers who are analyzing uniform materials for their ability to protect against flame, laser and thermal radiation. The laser can be focused very precisely, with its intensity and duration easily controlled.

■ **Five laboratories:** A materials preparation lab, flammability testing lab, combustion monitoring lab, materials analysis lab, and a thermal protection testing lab. These will be the places where researchers perform "bench tests" — tests that reveal very specific thermal properties and combustion byproducts (waste gases) offered by different clothing and materials.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: BurgessL@strips.esd.mil

Vehicles of war

Anna Capolongo from the 838th Transportation Battalion, Rhine River Detachment scans barcode labels of 1st Armored Division vehicles unloaded last week from the USNS Denobla in the Port of Antwerp, Belgium. The vehicles, used by 1st AD soldiers for the past 15 months in the Middle East, were shipped from a port in Kuwait when 1st AD soldiers returned to Germany. The first ships carrying the 1st AD's equipment arrived in Belgium last week.

BRAM DE JONG/Courtesy of the U.S. Army



Navy secretary tours shipyard

KITTERY, Maine — In a continuing effort to keep the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard open, New Hampshire and Maine congressional delegations took a closed-door tour of the yard with Navy Secretary Gordon England.

Calling it a "delightful visit," England said Thursday he liked what he saw, praising the operation's "lean manufacturing approach" and strong relationship among workers and managers.

Despite his praise, England cannot guarantee that the base will remain open.

The delegations presented a bipartisan front in their effort to keep the 204-year-old shipyard, the Navy's oldest, open for its 4,300 employees from New Hampshire, Maine and Massachusetts. The workers maintain nuclear submarines.

The yard sits on Seavey Island in the Piscataqua River that separates New Hampshire and Maine.

From The Associated Press

U.S., NATO forces to protect Olympic Games

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER

Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain — As American athletes go for the gold in this month's Olympics Games, U.S. and NATO planes and ships will patrol nearby to protect against a terror attack in Greece.

NATO allies will provide air and maritime patrols, intelligence and a special chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense team as part of an operation dubbed "Distinguished Games."

Military forces began opera-

tions on Monday and will augment Greek military authorities until the end of the Olympic and Paralympic Games Sept. 30, according to the Joint Force Command in Naples, Italy.

The Greek government is sensitive to NATO's contribution to Olympic security, and American officials are reluctant to talk on the record about the extent the U.S. military is involved. Part of the reason, also, is that NATO officials and the Greek government are still discussing how alliance members can help.

"A lot of the details are still under discussion," a U.S. State

The guided-missile frigate USS Elrod is the lone U.S. warship that is part of the NATO group.

Department official said on Friday.

Keeping the games safe has been a huge focus by Greek and foreign security officials.

The Olympics will be protected by a \$1.5 billion security and surveillance system, the most expensive in Olympic history.

The U.S. military's involvement in the security operations

will be through NATO, U.S. officials said.

The alliance's Standing Naval Force Mediterranean — an eight-ship force of destroyers and frigates from seven nations — will conduct maritime surveillance in international waters with the Hellenic Navy and Coast Guard. Spy planes and submarines will back up the naval force,

which this week turned command over to Commodore Ioannis Karaiskos of the Hellenic Navy.

The guided-missile frigate USS Elrod, which is homeported in Norfolk, Va., is the lone U.S. warship that is a part of the NATO group.

Reconnaissance planes, along with Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) planes, will provide surveillance from the sky.

Elements of the Multinational Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence Battalion are deployed in Halkida, Greece.

Adm. Gregory Johnson, the U.S. Navy's top officer in Europe, is overseeing NATO's plan to guard the games.

In addition to NATO's support, the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. State Department's Anti-Terrorism Assistance Program helped train 200 Hellenic Coast Guard member in underwater explosives and weapons of mass destruction emergency response.

In the last two years, members of the Anti-Terrorism Assistance Program have helped train nearly 1,300 Greek security officials, according to the U.S. Embassy in Athens.

During a ceremony in Greece, the U.S. government donated three, 27-foot Boston Whalers to help patrol ports and marinas around Greece during the Olympics.

E-mail Scott Schonauer at: schonauer@gmail.com or strips@edmail.com



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GI guilty in drug case

WÜRZBURG, Germany — A 510th Postal Company soldier drew a six-month prison sentence Friday after pleading guilty to conspiring to use and distribute marijuana, psilocybin mushrooms and the party drug Ecstasy.

Spc. Tyler Swafford, 22, of Katterbach, also was ordered reduced to the lowest enlisted rank and handed a bad-conduct discharge, said Capt. Sean Condon, acting chief of criminal law for the 1st Infantry Division's Staff Judge Advocate.

According to a court document, Swafford and another soldier, Pfc. Kirby Smith, were shopping at the Post Exchange in Würzburg March 6 when they made plans to get high at home that evening while playing video games and drinking beer.

Along with a third soldier, Cpl. Timothy Vernon, they bought the Ecstasy, mushrooms and marijuana from a civilian friend of Swafford's, Monica McLemore, and ingested them at Vernon's house in Ansbach, the document said.

A fourth soldier, who was present but didn't use any of the drugs, reported the incident.

Smith pleaded guilty to similar charges last month and received a 12-month sentence, and charges against Vernon are pending in military court. Condon said German authorities are prosecuting McLemore.

From staff reports

IN THE STATES

4 arrested in Fla. killings

Six people allegedly murdered over theft of Xbox

BY MIKE BRANOM

The Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — A man who was angry about a suspected theft recruited three teenagers to stab and beat six people to death with baseball bats in a Florida home, investigators said Sunday after making four arrests.

Remains of the six victims — four men and two women — were found Friday in the blood-spattered home.

All four suspects have been charged with first-degree murder and armed burglary, the Volusia County sheriff's department said. All of the victims had been stabbed, but autopsies determined the cause of death was the beating injuries.

Troy Victorino, 27, of Deltona was identified as the ringleader.

Also arrested were Robert Cannon, 18, of Orange City, Jerome

Hunter, 18, of Deltona and Michael Salas, 18, of Deltona.

"Officials struggling to come up with a motive for the crime be-

lieve the killings were committed over the theft of some clothes and an Xbox game system owned by Victorino," who has a criminal record for assault, a statement from the sheriff's office said.

The bodies were discovered in a three-bedroom home in Deltona, about 25 miles north of Orlando, after one victim's co-worker at Burger King called a friend and asked the person to visit the home because the victim had not arrived for work, officials said.

The sheriff's office on Saturday

identified the victims as Michelle Ann Nathan, 19, Anthony Vega, 34; Roberto "Tito" Gonzalez, 28, of New York; Francisco Ayo Roman, 30; and Jonathan Gleason, 18. Authorities had not yet positively identified the sixth victim by late Saturday.

The killing spree in the working-class, bedroom community of more than 70,000 people was the deadliest in Florida since 1990, when a man whose car was repossessed shot eight people to death at a Jacksonville loan office before turning the gun on himself.



Victorino

Cannon

Hunter

Salas



Volusia County Sheriff's crime scene investigators put on clean suits Saturday in Deltona, Fla., by the front of the home where six people were slain Friday. Four men and two women were found slain in the home after one of them failed to show up for an early morning shift at a nearby Burger King. Police have arrested four suspects in the killings.



President Bush and first lady Laura Bush leave St. Ann's Church in Kennebunkport, Maine, after morning services Sunday.

Bush family gets a 'holy' lesson on materialism

BY SCOTT LINDLAU

The Associated Press

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine — A clergyman implored his affluent congregation, including President Bush's family, to "jettison their material possessions."

The Very Rev. Martin Luther Agnew preached Sunday to a packed Episcopal church just down the road from the Bush family's seaside estate. Its oceanfront parking lot was filled with luxury cars by Jaguar, Mercedes, BMW and Volvo, testament to the wealth of the summer visitors at this southeast Maine resort.

"Gated communities," Agnew said, "tend to keep out God's people." But, he said, "Our material gifts do not have to be a wall."

"They can very well be a door. Jesus says, 'Sell your possessions and give alms,'" Agnew said. "I'm convinced that what we keep owns us, and what we give away sets us free."

The Bush family that gathered at the front of the church Sunday morning is wealthy by any measure. They convened here at the 11-acre family compound owned by the former president and perched on the Atlantic Ocean. It is worth millions of dollars.

The current president lists among his assets his Texas ranch, worth between \$1 million and \$5 million. He also has U.S. Treasury notes valued at \$5 million to \$8.7 million. He sold his share of the Texas Rangers baseball team in 1998 for more than \$15 million. Also in the stone-and-mortar church were Bush's three brothers, Jeb, Neil and Marvin, and first lady Laura Bush and Barbara Bush, the former first lady.

The family were gathered here for the wedding Saturday of Jeb Bush's son George Prescott Bush.

From church, the president and former president went fishing, their third expedition on the power boat in three days.

Boston religions decry violence

BY THEO EMERY

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Archbishop Sean P. O'Malley and other religious leaders pleaded for peace over the weekend after a spate of violence that has prompted calls for action from community leaders and city officials.

City and transit police have recorded 41 homicides so far this year — as many as the city saw in all of 2003.

Civic and city leaders are particularly concerned that the homicides include 26 deaths of people under age 24, including one brazen daytime murder of a coach at a youth basketball game in July. There have also been two recent non-fatal shootings of children in other parks, one of them in the middle of youth football tryouts.

In a letter to be read to parishioners at Masses throughout the Boston archdiocese, O'Malley wrote that violence has taken a "terribly devastating toll in loss of life and injury, especially among our children and young people."

"Our public parks and playgrounds, places which ought to be oases of safe recreation and en-

joyment for our children and families, have become the venues for terrible episodes of violence," he wrote.

Early Saturday morning, a 30-year-old woman was killed in the city's Lower Mills area in what police described as a domestic dispute. Her male companion was arrested and charged with unlawful possession of a firearm and ammunition, but was not immediately charged with killing the woman.

On Saturday, the day after a group of about 30 ministers met with Mayor Thomas Menino on Beacon Hill to discuss the violence, Pastor Gregory G. Groover said the ministers planned to increase neighborhood watches and street outreach, and to preach peace from their pulpits on Sunday.

Groover, the pastor of Charles Street AME Church in Roxbury, said he planned to ask the men in his congregation to stay after Sunday's service to urge them to take part in neighborhood walks.

"What I am hoping is that all the efforts we'll be doing, that it's not just a cosmetic response to the crises at hand, that we're really planning and putting into place some sustainable programs and resources that will be long-lasting," he said.

Rice says U.S. believes it has set back planning for possible attacks

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration believes it has set back al-Qaida's plans for a possible attack against the United States with the recent arrests of suspected terrorists and the seizure of detailed surveillance of financial centers.

In cooperation with U.S. intelligence agencies, authorities in Pakistan and Britain have detained suspected al-Qaida operatives, while computer files uncovered in Pakistan contained surveillance information of major financial sites in New York, Washing-

ton and Newark, N.J. The United States issued a terror alert based on that information.

Bush's national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, defended the administration's decision to issue the terror warnings and tighten security in New York, Newark and Washington even though some of the surveillance intelligence on which the government acted dated from four years ago.

Some have questioned whether the warnings were politically motivated to strengthen Bush's image as commander in chief in an election year.

"The government has a duty to warn when we find information that is more specific than the sort of general warnings that have been out there," Rice said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Al-Qaida's history of planning threats years in advance made it imperative to warn the public, she said.

"The idea that you would somehow play politics with the security of the American people — that you would not go out and warn if you have existing reports on buildings that are highly specific," Rice said. "Are you really supposed to not tell?"

Remembering a 'long, national nightmare'

30 years ago, Nixon's resignation capped a traumatic time in U.S. history

By BILL STRAUB

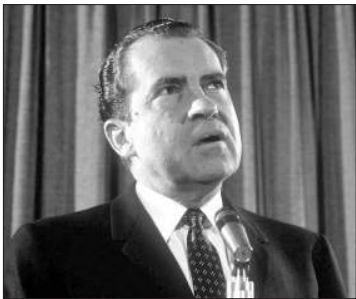
Scraps Howard News Service

WASHINGTON — With a mechanical wave of his right arm, he was gone, and in the historic words of the new president, Gerald Ford, America's "long, national nightmare" was over.

It has been 30 years — Aug. 9, 1974 — since Richard Nixon became the first and, thus far, only president to resign from office, a victim of the Watergate scandal that shadowed his administration for two years.

Nixon was succeeded by a former congressman from Michigan, Ford, who rose to the office of vice president in December 1973 when his predecessor, Spiro Agnew, resigned in disgrace over involvement in a kickback scheme.

The 37th president, subsequently pardoned by Ford, later described the events leading to his departure as "the nightmare of a long dream." Indictments, pleadings and prison terms for White House staff followed soon after Nixon left office. There were scandals before Richard Milhouse Nixon moved into the White House and there have



Monday marks 30 years since President Richard Nixon became the only president in United States history to resign from the position, having succumbed to his known ties to the Watergate scandal. Vice President Gerald Ford succeeded and later pardoned Nixon.

been scandals since.

But by acclamation, the granddaddy of them all remains Watergate and the Nixon resignation.

"If you were there, it was thoroughly traumatic," said Stephen Hess, an old Nixon hand and a senior fellow in governance studies

at the Brookings Institution, a Washington think tank.

The circumstances surrounding Nixon's departure have become the stuff of legend. The beginning of the end came during the summer of 1972, with the president engaged in a re-election campaign against George McGovern, a Democratic senator from South Dakota — a campaign Nixon would win in overwhelming fashion.

Burglars with ties to the Nixon campaign broke into the offices of the Democratic National Committee located in the Watergate complex on June 17, 1972. What they were hunting for remains a mystery. But they were caught, resulting in a series of events that ultimately would force the president's resignation.

Nixon and the special prosecutors assigned to investigate the incident — Archibald Cox followed by Leon Jaworski — sparred for months until Aug. 5, 1974, when a tape recording of a conversation between Nixon and one of his top aides, H.R. Haldeman, recorded in the Oval Office on June 17, 1972, produced the long-sought "smoking gun" — Nixon was

aware of his campaign's involvement in the break-in and sought to cover it up.

Facing sure impeachment and conviction, Nixon called Ford into the Oval Office early on the afternoon of Aug. 8, 1974, and told him, "I have made the decision to resign," saying the decision was "in the best interest of the country."

Shortly before 9 a.m. on Aug. 9, finishing what was to be his final White House breakfast in the Lincoln Sitting Room while jotting notes for his farewell to the staff, Nixon was interrupted by his chief of staff, Alexander Haig, who handed him an unsigned letter addressed to Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

It read: "I hereby resign the Office of President of the United States."

Nixon read it, and then signed without comment. Before long, he was gone.

"It's amazing how little time it takes to go back to business as usual — to put these things behind you," Hess said. "Americans are not a terribly political people. It's not what they're thinking about all the time."

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(10/04/04)

Red Adair, renowned oil well firefighter, dies

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Paul N. "Red" Adair, a world-renowned oil well firefighter who revolutionized the science of capping exploding and burning wells, has died, his daughter said. He was 89.

Adair, who boasted that none of his employees ever suffered a serious injury fighting the dangerous fires, died Saturday evening of natural causes at a Houston hospital, his daughter, Robyn Adair, told The Associated Press.

Adair founded Red Adair Co. Inc. in 1959 and is credited with battling more than 2,000 land and offshore oil well fires, including the hundreds of wells left burning after the Iraqis fled Kuwait at the end of the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

The Houston native proudly spent his 76th birthday clad in his traditional red overalls, swinging valves in place as his crews capped 117 Kuwaiti wells left burning by retreating Iraqi troops.

"Retire? I don't know what that word means," he told reporters at the time. "As long as a man is able to work and he's productive out there and he feels good — keep at it. I've got too many of my friends that retired and went home and got on a rocking chair, and about a year and a half later I'm ... going to the cemetery."

Adair, who finally did retire in 1994 and sold his company, was instrumental in expediting the shipment of crucial supplies and equipment into Kuwait by testifying before the Gulf Pollution Task Force and meeting with

then-President George H.W. Bush about the logistics of the firefighting operation.

Thanks in part to Adair's expertise, a firefighting operation expected to last three to five years was completed in nine months, saving millions of barrels of oil and stopping an intercontinental air pollution disaster.

Adair barely changed his hectic pace as he continued to pursue his specialty. His concession to later years was an occasional mid-afternoon nap as a crew boss watched over operations. His hearing had deteriorated somewhat because of years of standing amid thundering well fires.

"It scares you: all the noise, the rattling, the shaking," Adair once said, describing a blowout. "But the look on everybody's face when you're finished and packing, it's the best smile in the world; and there's nobody hurt, and the well's under control."

Adair spent a lifetime using explosives, drilling mud and concrete to control and cap wild well fires.

His death-defying feats included battling the July 1988 explosion of the Piper Alpha platform that killed 167 men in the North Sea.

His daring and his reputation for having never met a blowout he couldn't cap earned him the nickname "Hellfighter." It inspired the title of a 1968 movie based on Adair's life, "The Hellfighters," in which John Wayne played him.

"That's one of the best honors in the world, to have The Duke play you in a movie," Adair said.

A sad day at the beach



Volunteers carry a rough-toothed dolphin onto shore after more than 35 of the mammals beached themselves along Hutchinson Island in St. Lucie County, Fla., on Friday. The dolphins beached themselves later Friday in southeastern Florida after being pushed back to sea by dozens of beachgoers at an earlier stranding site.

With limited space at the area's lone dolphin-care facility, experts decided they could nurse only six of the animals back to health. The 30 remaining dolphins were given lethal injections and were taken to laboratories for examination by experts.

IN THE WORLD



Police arrest young Communist radicals, who were protesting legislation to turn social benefits into cash payments, near the upper chamber of Russia's Parliament in Moscow on Sunday.

Russian parliament approves bill to end Soviet-era benefits

By MARK D. BELLAMY
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia's upper house of parliament approved a controversial social reform bill on Sunday that would end an array of Soviet-era benefits, including free transportation and medicine, for some of Russia's most impoverished and vulnerable people.

The measure has sparked noisy protests in Moscow and around the nation, and police had cordoned off the Federation Council building Sunday but the large protests, which marked other key votes on the measure were absent.

The 179-seat Federation Council, which usually rubber-stamps legislation for the Kremlin, approved the government-backed legislation by a vote of 156-5 with one abstention. The measure had already won approval Thursday in the lower house of parliament, which is dominated by the pro-Kremlin United Russia party, and now goes to President Vladimir Putin for his signature.

The bill will replace many of the long-standing Soviet-era benefits with cash payments. An estimated 30 million people — Russia's elderly, disabled and World War II veterans — will be affected.

Svetlana Orlova, deputy chairwoman of the Federation Council, told the chamber that the bill is necessary because it will help streamline the nation's lumbering bureaucracy and now \$171 billion "will go to concrete people."

The government says the move will be a boon to many and will make aid more accurately targeted — arguing, for example, that public transporta-

tion is scarce in rural areas. But many recipients are outraged.

A small group of about 50 protesters on Sunday carried placards reading, "Hands off veterans' benefits!" About six young protesters — some wearing bright red T-shirts that read U.S.S.R. — slipped inside the police cordon and then refused to budge; police physically lifted three of them up and carried them into waiting police vans. All were later released after being ordered to appear later before a judge, the Interfax news agency reported.

Another group of elderly Russians in favor of the measure also gathered outside the Federation Council building, carrying signs of support.

Some regional officials have expressed concern about where they will find the money to make the cash payments. Sergei Mironov, the speaker of the Federation Council, noted that "all regions, regardless of their economic situation, must and are required to fulfill all the social mandate — and the federal center must help them," according to remarks broadcast on Russian state television.

He said the Federation Council recommended the creation of a reserve fund of \$30 billion to help Russia's poorer regions. Mironov also said that the federal government should report back every three months on how the reforms were continuing.

The bill eliminates free access to urban transportation, free home phone use for local calls, free provision of medical limbs, job guarantees for the disabled and, for many, free medicine. In return, they'll get monthly cash payments ranging from \$53 down to \$5.10.

Arab League backs Sudan

Nigeria offers to host peace talks on Darfur crisis

By NADIA ABUL-EL-MAGD
The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — The Arab League chief pledged support for Sudan's government before an emergency meeting on the violence that has killed thousands in that country's Darfur region, and Nigeria's president offered to host peace talks to resolve what has been called the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

The invitation from President Olusegun Obasanjo was to the Sudanese government and rebel negotiators to hold talks in Nigeria starting Aug. 23, a spokesman for the African Union said.

It was not immediately known whether the invite was accepted or what level of talks was on offer.

Previous talks to end the 18-month conflict fell apart on July 17 after rebels walked out, saying the Sudanese government had ignored existing peace agreements.

Black African factions in Dar-

fur rose up against the Sudanese government, claiming discrimination in the distribution of the large, arid region's scarce resources.

Since then, Arab militaries purportedly backed by the government have gone on a rampage, destroying villages, killing and raping.

The U.S. Congress and some humanitarian groups have accused Sudan of genocide, and a U.N. resolution has threatened economic and diplomatic action against Sudan if it doesn't act within 30 days to rein in the militias, known as Janjaweed.

Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa met separately



Moussa

Sunday morning with the foreign ministers of Sudan and Egypt, which wants Khartoum to be given more time to resolve the crisis on its own.

Moussa also met Sunday morning with the United Nations' special representative to Sudan, Jan Pronk, and African Union Commission Chairman Alpha Oumar Konare. They discussed how to support "mediation between the Sudanese government and the rebels," Moussa said.

Moussa also said the league meeting would produce a "clear Arab stand on how to deal with the Darfur crisis, on the Arab countries' support of Sudan and avoiding possible international sanctions."

An Arab League fact-finding team that visited Darfur in May concluded that alliances between Arab militias and the Sudanese government troops led to the "militia committing violations of human rights." The team called for an independent investigation.

Clashes between Yemeni rebels, troops continue

The Associated Press

SADAHA, Yemen — Yemeni forces clashed with an anti-Arabian religious leader and his followers for the fourth consecutive day Sunday, using warplanes and artillery to try to flush them out of their mountain hideouts.

What started as an attempt to rein in the charismatic Hussein Badr Eddin al-Houthi, who has

carved out a fiefdom in the Jabal Marwan mountains outside the northern town of Sa'dah, was beginning to resemble all-out war. The six-week conflict has killed more than 600 soldiers and rebels.

In the latest surge of fighting, clashes in the area lit up as balls of fire could be seen rising toward the sky as troops fired ar-

tillery and Katyusha rockets overnight. Officials in Sa'dah, about 125 miles northwest of the capital, Sana'a, said the death toll from five days of fighting rose to over 100, both from the military and the rebels, and 62 others were wounded.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Japanese yen (Aug. 5)	108.00
S. Korean won (Aug. 7)	1,135.00
Euro	\$1.248
British pound	\$1.48
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3768
British pound	\$1.4808
Canada (Dollar)	1.3115
Denmark (Krone)	6.5596
Egypt (Pound)	1.47
Euro	\$1.2277
Hong Kong (Dollar)	0.7966
Hungary (Forint)	200.92
Israeli (Shekel)	7.9595
Italy (Lira)	4,252
Japan (Yen)	108.00
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2947
Norway (Krone)	4.7566
Philippines (Peso)	55.65
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.69
Switzerland (Franc)	1.2421
S. Korea (Won)	1,135.00
Thailand (Baht)	1.4647
Taiwan (Dollar)	1470.5880

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance. For nonmilitary currency exchange rates, see the U.S. Department of the Treasury's website, www.fia.gov.) (U.S. purchasing power parity in Germany is 1.936 U.S. dollars per 1 U.S. dollar.) (U.S. purchasing power parity in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom is 1.36 U.S. dollars per 1 U.S. dollar.) (U.S. purchasing power parity in the United Kingdom is 1.36 U.S. dollars per 1 U.S. dollar.) (U.S. purchasing power parity in the United Kingdom is 1.36 U.S. dollars per 1 U.S. dollar.)

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PRECIOUS METALS

New York Merc exchange	
Silver	\$39.80
Gold	\$6.70

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.25
Discount rate	2.25
3-month bill	1.15
6-month bill	1.15
1-year bill	1.43
30-year mortgage	2.44

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America, Bloomberg.com

Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

Avoid investment scams

CBS MarketWatch

NEW YORK — Watch out for scams from a typically reliable source — your insurance agent — warns the North American Securities Administrators Association.

The NASAA reports annually on the top 10 scams. This year, according to Consumer Reports, several have been linked with insurance agents, who may receive a hefty commission for your investment, even if the deal turns out to be bogus.

Beware of pitches from your insurance agent for:

■ Investments that offer good returns while helping the terminally ill. So-called vitalists are offered when a terminally ill person sells his or her life insurance policy benefits to receive money upfront for medical expenses. Although vitalists can be legitimate, sometimes the terminally ill person doesn't die as expected — negating any profit you might make. Other deals are fakes.

■ Promissory notes for potentially lucrative real-estate developments or startup companies. Investors are offered the chance to purchase — short-term, insurance-backed notes with high returns. Even if the deal is legitimate, such promissory notes are usually issued only when the company in question doesn't qualify for traditional loans.

■ Risk-free prime bank notes endorsed by major financial institutions. There is no such investment. Instead, your money is sent to an offshore bank.

■ Contracts for ATMs or pay phone locations.

To avoid being scammed, ask for written information about the investment, including financial information about the company. Then research it and the associated companies thoroughly.

Check with your state's securities regulator to make sure the investment is valid and that your agent is licensed to sell securities. To find your state's securities regulator, visit www.nasaa.org.

Woman faces trial

PA HARRISBURG — A woman accused of running a red light, making an obscene gesture at other drivers and killing a pedestrian faces trial on a charge of homicide by vehicle while driving under the influence.

Melissa Cummings, 22, waived her right to a preliminary hearing Monday and remained free on bail.

Police said Cummings allegedly ran a red light at a Harrisburg intersection on June 21 and gestured at startled motorists moments before she struck the rear of a parked sport utility vehicle, killing Jack C. Hynen, 55, of Susquehanna Township.

Hynen and another man were pinning their dogs in the back of the SUV after a walk in Riverfront Park. The other man and the dogs weren't injured.

Police said Cummings allegedly had a blood-alcohol level of 0.15 percent, nearly twice the 0.08 legal limit for driving.

Plane hits luxury home

TX LAKEWAY — Golfers were knocking their way around a tournament at The Hills Country Club just before noon when they saw a plane struggling to gain altitude upon takeoff.

It strained for height, then plummeted to the ground and smashed into a luxury home behind the No. 11 green.

The crash killed six people, including two children, their parents, the pilot and another person, said Federal Aviation Administration spokesman John Clabes. Three people inside the home escaped unharmed.

The TF60 Smith AeroStar, a twin-engine propeller plane, was fueled before taking off from Lake-way Airpark. The house where the plane crashed is less than two miles away.

Texas Department of Public Safety spokeswoman Tela Manges said she didn't know where the plane originated, but witnesses at the airport said it was headed to Oklahoma City.

All six bodies had been recovered from the crash site by Tuesday evening, authorities said.

Driver allegedly asleep

ME FRYEBURG — Police said the driver of a car that hit a busload of New Hampshire campers in Maine may have dozed off at the wheel.

Hans Vonsicard, 45, of Graham, Washington, is in critical condition after Sunday's crash on Route 302 in Fryeburg.

The campers were returning to Camp Robinell in Moultonborough, N.H., from a camp in Maine. Camp Robinell owner Nat Greenfield said none of the girls had any serious injuries.

History tilts city

SC CHARLESTON — It seems it could only happen in Charleston, a city where the past is lovingly, and sometimes fiercely, preserved.

When workers recently repaired a sidewalk in the historic district, they straightened the brown-stone posts on Church Street that had been leaning at an angle as long as anyone can remember.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Now residents want City Hall to make sure that which was made straight will be tilted again.

Preservationists are not really sure what the posts were for. Residents want the posts put back the way they were and the city agrees.

Jonathan Poston of the Historic Charleston Foundation found out about the change last month. He said the leaning posts are the type of Charleston landmark that often quietly disappears.

University rethinks logos

HI HONOLULU — And the winner is: None of the above.

Nearly half, or 49 percent, of the people voicing opinions about the six proposed logos for the University of Hawaii said they don't like any of them.

The university said it received e-mails and letters from about 660 people in response to the six logos proposed by three local design companies and made public last week.

The committee has the option of rejecting all six proposals, according to a university statement.

Public input is important. The university is seeking a single logo that can be used throughout — and identify and unify — the 10-campus system, replacing more than 150 different logos now used throughout the system.

The new logo won't replace the athletic logos for the Manoa campus and UH-Hilo, nor will it replace the university seal, which

will continue to be used on diplomas.

2 men arrested

AZ TUCSON — Two convicted sex offenders have been arrested in separate incidents after trying to illegally cross the border in Arizona, authorities said.

U.S. Border Patrol agents from the Douglas Station encountered Ismael Hernandez-Gonzalez, 49, about a half mile west of Douglas and he admitted to being in the country illegally.

After his fingerprints were processed, agents discovered Hernandez-Gonzalez was convicted on two charges in New York in 1984 and served a year in jail for sexual abuse and acting in a manner to induce a child.

Border Patrol agents said they came across Faustino Tierrablanca-Pena, 39, about seven miles east of Naco and he also admitted to being in the country illegally from Mexico.

During processing, agents discovered Tierrablanca-Pena was arrested for sexual abuse in Texas in 1996 and was sentenced to three years in jail.

The two men remained in federal custody Thursday.

Bear gets the ax

AK ANCHORAGE — Officials closed a backcountry area of Denali National Park after a hiker told rangers he had driven off an attacking grizzly bear by burying his ice ax in the animal's back.

Park Service spokeswoman Kris Fister said Roberto Cataldo, 29, of Modena, Italy, reported the encounter. A roughly 50-square-mile tract that encompasses the area where Cataldo said he had hiked was closed indefinitely.

Fister said much of what Cataldo told rangers has not been corroborated, but the park had to take protective measures. "A wild bear 'poses a threat to anyone going into the area,' she said.

Cataldo was treated for scratches on his left forearm and was questioned by Park Service rangers. Fister did not know if Cataldo was still in the park.

Park biologists flew over the area to look for the bear and will continue to monitor the area.

Towel left in body

OH CANTON — Relatives of a woman whose surgeon left a rolled-up towel inside her chest seven years ago have filed a lawsuit against the clinic where the surgery was performed.

Bonnie Valle often complained about an odd feeling in her chest in the years following a procedure at the Cleveland Clinic, family members said.

Doctors told Valle the symptoms reflected the progression of her emphysema and that the benefits of the surgery would not last forever, said her daughter, Jeanne Clark.

When she died in June 2002, a day after her 60th birthday, Valle donated her body to the Northeast Ohio Universities College of Medicine. During dissection, a faculty member discovered a green surgical cloth the size of a large hand towel behind her left lung.

The lawsuit contends the towel produced costly complications and ultimately caused her mother's death.



Sweet treat

A hummingbird moth hovers to feed on flowers near Archer, Pa. This moth is often confused with the hummingbird, since it feeds in the same areas and manner as the hummingbird.



Stranded

A man sits on his stalled car under a bridge on Market Street in downtown Harrisburg, Pa., as another car pushes through the water.



Sheep stompin'

Jake Malcolm, 8, gets dumped by his sheep after a good ride in the Mutton Bustin' event at the Cowlitz County Fair in Longview, Wash.

Hello there!

A praying mantis hangs onto a window outside the Advocate Messenger newspaper in Danville, Ky.



Pretty in pink

An American flamingo chick peeks out from its mother's feathers to feed at the Smithsonian's National Zoo in Washington D.C.



Enjoying the indoors

Lonnie Owenby, 74, left, and Estelle Burns, 89, both residents of

Ellenburg Nursing Home in Anderson, S.C., enjoy their beach-themed party indoors. Temperatures in the low 90s outside were too warm for the group of 29 residents who participated in the summer activity.



Big bottle blues

Neighborhood groups have proposed relocating the 60-foot-tall bottle that sits atop the old Pabst Brewery complex in Newark, N.J., to a local park.

CDs pulled from library

MO KANSAS CITY — The Kansas attorney general has withheld more than 1,400 compact discs from distribution to state libraries because officials determined the albums promote violence or illegal activity, records show.

The albums removed by Attorney General Phill Kline's office were part of 51,000 discs given to Kansas as part of a nationwide settlement to resolve allegations of price fixing.

The confiscated CDs included recordings by 25 musicians, including rap artists such as OutKast and Notorious B.I.G., rock bands Rage Against the Machine and Stone Temple Pilots, and even older acts such as punk legend Lou Reed and the 1980s experimental group Devo.

The American Civil Liberties Union said the decision amounted to censorship.

Seal pups protected

HI LIHUE — Federal wildlife officials are working with local volunteers to ensure the safety of two Hawaiian monk seal pups born this week on Kauai beaches, authorities said.

Officials say one pup was born at Poipu Beach and the other at Maunaloa Beach, where volunteers have roped off parts of the beaches to give the mother seals some space so they don't abandon the pups.

The pups probably will be weaned when they are about six weeks old.

Greek house vandalized

VA CHARLOTTESVILLE — Police are trying to determine who broke into the Kappa Alpha fraternity house at the University of Virginia here and doused the floor and furniture with gasoline.

The three students in the house awoke, walked downstairs and heard someone running away.

Police are investigating the incident as an arson and breaking-and-entering case, though it's possible that it was just a prank or an act of vandalism, Sgt. Michael Farrugio said.

"It could have been a tragic situation if this gas had been ignited," he said.

Neo-Nazi confesses

PA PITTSBURGH — A man whom police call a neo-Nazi confessed to fatally shooting a woman he met over the Internet about a month ago, authorities said.

Hardy C. Lloyd, 26, of Pittsburgh, was jailed without bond after he was charged with criminal homicide in the shooting of Lori Hann, 41, a secretary whose friends said Lloyd met in an online dating service.

Lloyd told police that Hann arrived outside his home and threatened to break up with him if he didn't get into her car.

Lloyd told police the car sped away after he got in and that she stopped in front of a residence and ran toward it, as he followed.

Lloyd caught up with Hann and shot her once in the face on the porch of the residence, which was not otherwise connected to either Hann or Lloyd, police said.

Boy scared to death

MA SANDWICH — A 13-year-old boy attending a camp for underprivileged children collapsed and died after being scared by a bear on a hike, authorities said.

Antonio Hansell of Boston and a counselor from Camp Hale came across the bear twice in one afternoon on Mount Doublehead, the state Fish and Game Department said. Officials said the two ran after first seeing the bear and Antonio lost a sneaker. The pair returned to retrieve the sneaker but fled after encountering the bear again. The bear did not chase them.

The counselor called the camp on a cell phone and told them Antonio was scared and did not want to continue. The camp contacted Fish and Game about the situation.

Fish and Game Sgt. James Goss said he later spoke to Antonio by cell phone and determined the boy was having trouble breathing.

Goss organized a rescue. The boy had collapsed, was not breathing and had no pulse when Goss and other rescuers reached him about two hours after the initial call.

Prison Web cams unjust

AZ PHOENIX — A federal appeals panel upheld a lower court's decision to stop cameras from transmitting live video of inmates at an Arizona jail to the Internet.

One of the judges from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the practice "constitutes a level of humiliation that almost anyone would regard as profoundly undesirable."

The ruling came on an appeal by Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio, who challenged a U.S. District Court judge's decision to stop the cameras.

Judge Earl Carroll's preliminary injunction in March 2003 prohibited the video feed until resolution of a lawsuit alleging the cameras violate 14th Amendment guarantees of due process and equal protection.

Twenty-four former inmates at Phoenix's Madison Street Jail — which exclusively holds people awaiting trial — filed the lawsuit in May 2001 against Arpaio and Maricopa County, which includes the Phoenix area.

Arpaio has gained notoriety for putting inmates on chain gangs and issuing them striped uniforms and pink underwear.

Candidate really is crook

WA TACOMA — Republican leaders in Washington state were happy to have a contender for state auditor when they accepted Will Baker's last-minute offer to challenge a popular Democrat.

They didn't worry too much about who he was — until they realized a considerable amount of his time was spent in jail.

Now party leaders are scrambling to remove him from the ballot, days after naming him as the Republican candidate.

"We didn't check him out," state GOP chairman Chris Vance said.

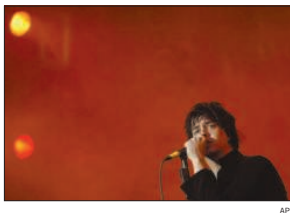
On Friday, state election officials denied the party's request to remove Baker from the ballot, saying it would require court action.

Photos and stories from wire reports



Golden fields

Amanda Kautz, a member of the USDA Risk Management Agency, evaluates wheat in a field near Mekinock, N.D.



Julian Casablancas of The Strokes sings last month at Punchestown Racecourse in Ireland. The Strokes are one of 40 bands who will gather in New York on Saturday for the International Underground Garage Festival.

Celebrating garage rock

40 bands set to jam Saturday

BY LUKAS I. ALPERT
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The spirit of garage rock infused both the three-chord anthems of the Ramones and the raw power of Iggy and The Stooges.

But aside from a few blips on the cultural radar, the simplistic, formulaic and mini-fancy attitude that has defined garage rock has drifted to the fringes of musical history. Played in dingy garages and barrooms, it was mostly ignored by the mainstream.

Now your car plays ready. That three-chord energy is set to shake the musical world's hips this weekend as 40 bands from legendary rocker Bo Diddley to revivalists The Strokes gather in New York to kick out the jams at the International Underground Garage Festival.

"Look, we've been drowning in mediocrity for too long," said Little Steven Van Zandt, who organized the festival and has championed all things garage for several years with a nationally syndicated radio show. "It's time to re-embrace the basics, that spirit of rock 'n' roll."

Every era of garage rock from the 1950s to the present day will be represented at the Aug. 14 festival on Randall's Island. For some bands, it will be the first time they have performed together in years. And in keeping with garage rock character, tickets are only \$20.

But Van Zandt said the festival means garage rock's time has finally come.

"It really is an international movement, and right now is the time to recognize this officially as a genre," said Van Zandt, the guitarist from Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band who plays Silvio Dante on "The Sopranos."

"We're in a unique place that rock 'n' roll has been pushed underground and now it is being reborn."

Despite its influence, defining garage rock has always been a difficult task, as it has constantly reinvented itself. But a few things have carried through: generally simple song structure, loud guitars and an attitude of rock-for-the-sake-of-rock and nothing else.

"People sometimes mistake garage for kids playing out of tune," Van Zandt said. "It's that, too, but there's a certain spirit, a certain simplicity. There's a pop element to it, a certain '60s pop structure. It's the Stones at the Crawdaddy Club in 1962. It's The Who at the Marquee Club. It's a little bit hard to describe."

Which perhaps explains why it has always played second or even third fiddle to easier to define genres like blues, heavy metal or hip-hop.

But it's garage's outsider status that has always branded it as cool, said Fabrizio Moretti, drummer for The Strokes.

"Even though the mainstream doesn't recognize garage as much or as prevalently as those crazy huge bands, garage does get the privilege of being looked upon as something that's cool even by people that don't understand it," he said by phone from Los Angeles.

And when the mainstream has grown tired of some of its mainstay pop formulas, it has always looked to garage for an adrenaline shot of hipness.

"Every once in a while there's a point where mainstream and garage kind of cross," Moretti said. "Joy Romeone said they had modeled their stuff after '50s pop songs, so there you go."

AFRTS Television Schedule

MONDAY, AUGUST 9, 2004

(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00 Dr. Phil	Dragonfly TV	The Betty Boys	PGA Golf	The Wild Thornberrys
9:30 Rocket Power	Jeopardy!	For News Watch	SportsCenter	Dragonfly TV
10:00 Oprah Winfrey	Wheel of Fortune	Bulls and Bears	The Simpsons	Jeopardy!
10:30 Guiding Light	ESPNNews	Cavuto on Business	Happy Days	Headline News
11:00 General Hospital	Advisory Block	Dateline NBC	Average Joe: Hawaii	ESPNNews
12:00 Headline News	60 Minutes II	Access Hollywood	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit 'Surveillance'	Headline News
12:30 Judge Judy	Cold Case "The Letter"	Good Morning America	Mold Case "The Letter"	60 Minutes II
13:00 Today Pamela Anderson, Chris Kentis.	24 Day 2: 10:00 - 11:00 AM	Headline News	Monster Garage Mercedes conversion.	Cold Case "The Letter"
13:30	14:00	Headline News	24 Day 3: 3:00 - 4:00 PM	Headline News
14:00	14:30	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
15:00 Recess (E)	24 Day 2: 10:00 - 11:00 AM	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
15:30 Digimon-Digital	The Tonight Show	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
16:00 Dragonfly TV	The Tonight Show	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
16:30	The Tonight Show	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
17:00	The Tonight Show	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
17:30	The Tonight Show	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
18:00	The Tonight Show	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
18:30	The Tonight Show	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
19:00	The Tonight Show	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
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20:00	The Tonight Show	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
20:30	The Tonight Show	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
21:00	The Tonight Show	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
21:30	The Tonight Show	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
22:00	The Tonight Show	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
22:30	The Tonight Show	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
23:00	The Tonight Show	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
23:30	The Tonight Show	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News

(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
00:00 (11:30) Late Show	(11:00) Today Pamela Anderson, Chris Kentis.	Headline News	SportsCenter	(11:00) Movie *** "To Die For" (1995)
00:30 Access Hollywood	NBC Nightly News	Headline News	MLB Baseball teams to be Announced. (Live)	Sesame Street (E)
1:00 Monday Night Countdown (Live)	Sesame Street (E)	ABC World News	SpongeBob	Sesame Street (E)
1:30	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	CBS Evening News	Happy Days	Sagwa-Siamese Cat
2:00	NFL Preseason Football Hall of Fame Game - Denver Broncos vs. Washington Redskins. From Canton, Ohio. (Live)	Dr. Phil	ER "No Good Deed Goes Unpunished"	Oprah Winfrey
2:30	Oprah Winfrey	The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer	SportsCenter	The Residents "Women in Surgery"
3:00	Headline News	NBC Nightly News	Baseball Tonight	Headline News
3:30	ESPNNews	Judge Judy	Champ Car World Series	Judge Judy
4:00	Headline News	Access Hollywood	Racing Road America. From Road America in Elkhart Lake, Wis. (Taped)	Headline News
4:30	Headline News	Guiding Light	Newsnight With Aaron Brown	Headline News
5:00	Sesame Street (E)	General Hospital	Paula Zahn Now	Headline News
5:30	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	Larry King Live	MLB Baseball teams to be Announced.	Headline News
6:00	Headline News	Animaniacs	SportsCenter	Headline News
6:30	Headline News	Dr. Phil	MLB Baseball teams to be Announced.	Headline News
7:00	Headline News	All That	SportsCenter	Headline News
7:30	Headline News	Jeopardy!	MLB Baseball teams to be Announced.	Headline News
8:00	Headline News	Wheel of Fortune	SportsCenter	Headline News
8:30	Headline News	ESPNNews	Motorcycle Racing AMA	Headline News
9:00	Headline News	Advisory Block	SportsCenter	Headline News
9:30	Headline News	NFL Preseason Football Hall of Fame Game - Denver Broncos vs. Washington Redskins. From Canton, Ohio. (Live)	SportsCenter	Headline News
10:00	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Headline News
10:30	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Headline News
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STARS AND STRIPES

FACES 'N' PLACES

Broderick to star in off-Broadway play

How do you follow a starring role on Broadway in "The Producers"? **Matthew Broderick**, who played Leo Bloom in the hit **Mel Brooks** musical, will go off-Broadway this fall. The 42-year-old actor will portray the title character in a revival of "The Foreigner," **Larry Shue's** comedy about a shy, stressed-out Englishman who, while vacationing in rural Georgia, pretends he can't speak the language.

The production, to be directed by **Scott Schwartz**, will open Nov. 7 at the Roundabout Theatre Company's Laura Pels Theatre in New York.

The original "Foreigner" opened off-Broadway in November 1984 and ran for nearly two years. Shue, who died in a plane crash in 1985 at the age of 39, was in the production, which starred **Anthony Heald** as **Charlie Baker**, the tongue-tied foreigner.

Donald Duck gets Hollywood nod

Donald Duck is finally getting some respect.

The famous hotheaded animated Disney character will be honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame to be unveiled Monday in front of the Disney Store on Hollywood Boulevard.

Johnny Grant, honorary mayor of Hollywood and chairman of the Walk of Fame Committee, will preside. Disney chief executive **Michael Eisner**, **Mickey** and **Minnie Mouse**, **Goofy**, **Daisy Duck** and **Donald** can next be seen Aug. 17 in Disney's direct-to-DVD "The Three Musketeers," the first feature-length film starring **Donald**, **Mickey Mouse** and **Goofy** together.



Donald Duck

'Blues Brothers' wins best soundtrack

"The Blues Brothers" rated the best movie soundtrack in a British straw vote.

Triumphed the soundtrack of "Pulp Fiction" and "Train-spotting" in a vote conducted for British Broadcasting Corp. digital radio.

"It's a 'Sound of Music' for hipsters, a film that lives and breathes music," said **Andrew Collins**, who drew 10,000 voters for his survey in London.

The stars of the 1980 film, **John Belushi** and **Dan Aykroyd**, sang several of the songs, including "Everybody Needs Somebody to Love" and the theme from "Rawhide." Guest appearances included **Ray Charles** in "Shake Your Tailfeather," **James Brown** in "The Old Landmark," **Aretha Franklin** in "Think" and **Cab Calloway** with "Minnie the Moocher."

O'Donnell to make cruise documentary

Rosie O'Donnell is producing an HBO documentary on her R Family Vacations, a cruise catering to gay and lesbian families.

O'Donnell and her partner, **Kelli Carpenter O'Donnell**, went on the cruise in July for a week on the Norwegian Dawn, traveling from New York to the Bahamas with 500 other gay and lesbian families.

The documentary will debut on HBO in 2005, the cable channel said Friday in the States.

The couple were married in a civil ceremony Feb. 26 in San Francisco. They are raising four children together and are strong advocates of gay marriage and adoption.

Singer busted for prescription drug fraud

Country singer **Mindy McCreedy** was arrested Thursday and charged with prescription drug fraud after authorities said she used a fake prescription to obtain the pain medicine OxyContin.

McCreedy, 28, was arrested at her home in Nashville, Tenn., according to the Williamson County Sheriff's Department. She allegedly presented a fraudulent prescription for OxyContin at a pharmacy on Feb. 12, paid for the drug and then left.

McCreedy was booked Thursday into the Williamson County jail, about 25 miles south of Nashville, before she was released on \$100,000 bail.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Country singer Joe Nichols has high hopes for his sophomore album, despite its emotional tone.

BY JOHN GEROME
The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Before Joe Nichols sings a note, women begin rushing the Grand Ole Opry stage.

Young women, old women, teens, preteens — they all stream to the front with cameras. "We love you Joe," several shout in unison.

Nichols, a tall guy with long dark hair and a hoop earring, cracks a joke about bringing his fan club along and then puts his deep voice to Merle Haggard's "The Farmer's Daughter."

Good looks aside, the 27-year-old singer is at a pivotal point in his young career. The success of his big-label debut "Man With a Memory" made him a torchbearer for country music's neotraditionalists. He visited classic country themes and did it with a rich, irresistible baritone. His no-frills style drew comparisons to Haggard, Alan Jackson and Randy Travis.

His follow-up, "Revelation," continues the hard country sound but with a more somber tone — a reaction, he says, to his father's death from a rare lung disease in 2002.

"There are a few more ballads on this one," Nichols said backstage at the Opry. "I think it's a little more emotional, maybe a little more spiritual at times."

Artists who make a splashy debut face a lot of pressure with the next album. The schedule is tighter, the expectations higher and the demands greater. Some hit a ditch. Singer **Deana Carter** sold 5 million copies of her 1996 debut "Did I Shave My Legs for This?" Her 1998 follow-up yielded half a million in sales.

"The sophomore project for any artist is often the determining factor in the public's mind to see if the artist is a one-trick pony or has something more durable and versatile," said Neil Pond, editorial director for Country Music Weekly magazine.

Nichols doesn't seem worried. He says he was more confident and relaxed this time around.

"A lot of people say making the second album after a successful first is pretty scary," he said. "But we thought the exact opposite. It felt like the pressure was off. We'd already proven ourselves with one album, and as long as we keep doing the same thing I think we'll be OK."

The 11 new songs range from the barroom romp "Don't Ruin It For the Rest of Us" to the dark tale track, a Waylon Jennings cover in which a man wakes from a bad dream and vows to God to change his ways.

In between, Nichols ruminates on misplaced love worship ("Singer in a Band"), death ("Farewell Party," "No

Time to Cry"), failing parental responsibility ("Things Like That") and eroding religious faith ("If Nobody Believed in You").

He co-wrote one song, the lighthearted "What's a Guy Gotta Do?" with his snappy word play, "So I bumped into a pretty girl's shopping cart. But all I did was break her eggs and bruise her arthritic hearts."

But his thoughts are most apparent in the closing track, Iris DeMent's "No Time to Cry," about a musician who is too busy, or unwilling, to grieve for a dead father.

"It just reflects my life at this time more than anything I've heard," he said. "It's an emotional moment on the album for me, personally."

His father, Joe Nichols, was an Arkansas truck driver who moonlighted as a bass player in a country band. He had a big influence on his son's musical pursuits and was alive just long enough to see Nichols' star begin to rise. When Nichols made his Grand Ole Opry debut in March 2002, his father, only 46, was at the side of the stage.

"Of course, he was in a wheelchair then; he was pretty sick," Nichols recalls. "After I was done, we cried together and he told me that was one of his proudest moments."

That Opry show was a career marker for Nichols. He had left Rogers, Ark., for Nashville when he was just 18. He signed a deal with an independent label and released a self-titled album in 1996.

The album flopped (Nichols says now he was too green) and he kicked around Nashville playing clubs and working a series of odd jobs, including bartender, cable guy, UPS truck loader and, for one day, door-to-door steak salesman.

After 31 record company rejections, he was finally signed in January 2002 by startup label Universal South. Not only was the label and the artist new, so was the producer, Brent Rowan, an ace studio musician who had never produced an album before.

Somehow, the combination clicked. "Man With a Memory" has sold nearly a million copies. The first single, "The Impossible," reached No. 2 on the Billboard country chart, while the follow-up, "Brokenheartsville," went No. 1.

And in one of the industry's real shockers that year, both Nichols and the album were nominated for Grammys — pitting him against superstar **Carrie Underwood**, **Willie Nelson**, **Dolly Parton** and the Dixie Chicks.

If Nichols can repeat his success, few will be as surprised this time around.

"Joe's a keeper of the flame," said Brian Phillips, general manager of Country Music Television. "In every era, we need these and we need new ones. There will always be a place for staunch traditionalists with great chops and a great interpretive style, and Joe is that."

Nichols
strums a
somber
song

Second album hits
an emotional note

Horoscope

Mercury goes retrograde in Virgo, where it will remain until Sept. 2. It's the little things that make a difference. Paying attention to the finest details will help the gears of life run smoothly, and ignoring the small points will create instant chaos. This is a terrific time to develop an appreciation for all the elements of life we take for granted.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (August 9). This year, you step into life's stage with incredible confidence and self-possession. No wonder you're so in demand over the next seven weeks. Be careful about whom you spend time with, and make sure you're both giving and getting something from the relationship. Career aims are met in October. Love signs are Virgo and Taurus.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Around every turn, there is someone eager to complicate your thinking, not out of maliciousness but because of a need to validate their own faulty reasoning. Strive to use the elegance of simplicity to accomplish your work.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The stars reinforce your steadfast personality. If you were thinking of dropping a project, you will now have the steady resolve to cross the finish line. Nothing can frighten or deter you once you've put your plan in writing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You do things that other people admire, though they may not say so out loud. Look in the mirror, and give yourself the recognition you deserve. Watch out for a tendency to choose inappropriate rewards, though.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your opportunities are strong, but other factors may obscure them from your view. Open your eyes wide! Let today be a wake-up call to you. Whatever you're slip is now in danger of getting out of your grasp.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your entire psyche is honed to make good luck happen. Take a chance

on off-the-wall prospects. The old way wasn't working so great anyway, now was it? You meet someone new while extending your kindness.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Some dreams are elusive, like shooting stars. Make a resolution that you will not wind up a notion that you thought up one day and never acted upon. Get working. People's limitations cause your schedule to change.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). An activity to which you devote many hours today is not only difficult and time consuming; it's often thankless. The commitment you show is a testament to your character, though, and in the end, you won't be sorry for your efforts.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Once a realization comes to you, there's no looking back. You could be struck with the idea that you're breaking your back to chase and maintain a lifestyle or unnecessarily putting up with a person's antics.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There are things you've got to change in order to make it all work now. If you're willing to let go of preconceived notions of your perfect world, you'll find that something even better waits its place.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Whether it's getting to know your teenage children better or relating to clients from a foreign land, in some way, you'll be peering into a different culture. Soak up the details, especially the lingo and values of this group.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's a vivid day, one that will go down in your memory banks. You're in the mood for adventure and flights of poetic fancy and will seek companions who know how to deliver on such high demands.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're so stimulated by knowledge that learning is one of the most crucial things you can do now for your happiness. When you're happy, you're also extremely attractive. So find ways to broaden your horizons.

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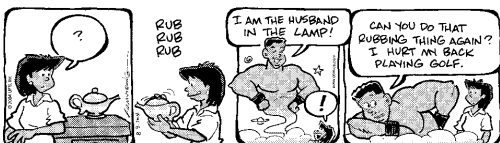
Joyce Jillson



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



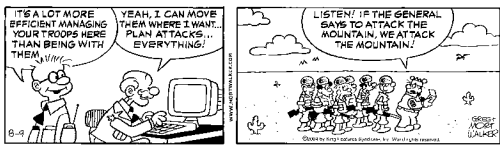
Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



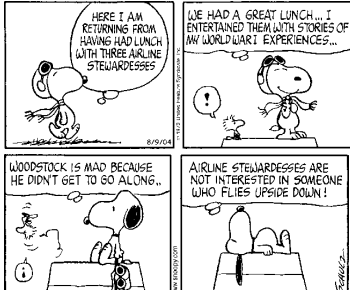
Red and Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



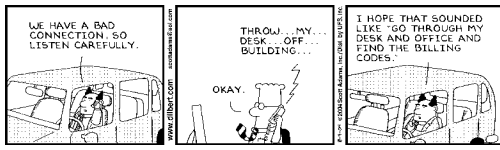
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



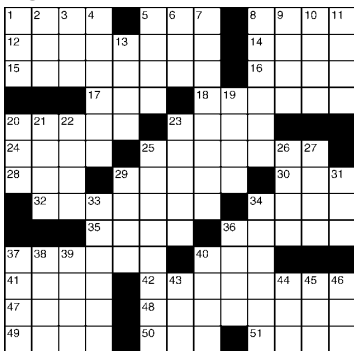
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Literary Jane
- 5 Remote
- 8 Shaft of light
- 12 Rural vendor's place
- 14 Wheel-base terminus
- 15 Bracing lines
- 16 Crab's zodiac neighbor
- 17 Rocks, at the bar
- 18 Took out of context?
- 20 Mettle
- 23 Blueprint
- 24 Dumbo's "wings"
- 25 Patsy
- 28 Conclusion
- 29 Kegler's path
- 30 Sequence
- 32 Gannon Keillor's "radio private" voice
- 34 Pre-swam
- 35 "Son of —"
- 36 Leg parts
- 37 Oatmeal, e.g.
- 40 Melody
- 41 Bread spread
- 42 Occupation of Jim Carrey's Chip
- 47 Novice
- 48 Producing a milklike substance
- 49 H.S. exams
- 50 Perch
- 51 Afternoon socials
- 2 Addressee
- 3 Bob's longtime partner
- 4 Newman and Meese
- 5 Pink-slip
- 6 Summertime quencher
- 7 Fence, in a sense
- 8 Hay work
- 9 Egress
- 10 Lotion additive
- 11 Patch
- 13 Ailing
- 19 "What's My Line?" host John
- 20 Witness
- 21 Throe
- 22 Language of Pakistan
- 23 Michael of "Monty Python"
- 25 Wide ruffles
- 26 Incile
- 27 Christmastide
- 29 Halo wearer, in Le Havre
- 31 Gov. Pataki's domain (Abbr.)
- 33 Brutes encountered by Gulliver
- 34 Turmoil
- 36 "Dressed to —"
- 37 Billions and billions
- 38 Russian writer
- 39 Ennberg
- 39 Birth coach
- 40 Touch
- 43 "What Kind of Fool —?"
- 44 Donate, to Burns
- 45 Sch. founded by Jefferson
- 46 "Of course"

Answer to Previous Puzzle



Down

1 Work unit

8-9

CRYPTOQUIP

QI NVQ CXTAV JZQFSQSIIJ.
S'R PCW C QWTSBCA
NMIPQ XZPQ VCQ QMFVV
PBCFV XVCAP C RCW.
Saturday's Cryptoquip: WANT AD: "WE ARE SEEKING A COUPLE OF GIFTED TEAPATHS. YOU KNOW WHERE TO APPLY."
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals T



Jack Osborne, 104, front, who served with the 52nd Devonshire Light Infantry in World War I, and Fred Lloyd, 106, who served with the Royal Artillery, lead a procession in London last week to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the outbreak of World War I.

4 survivors honor U.K. WWI comrades

By BETH GARDNER
The Associated Press

LONDON — Four World War I veterans, the youngest 103 years old, brought wreaths of red poppies to Britain's main war memorial last week to mark the 90th anniversary of the opening of a conflict their generation once hoped would be humanity's last.

Three held the wreaths on their laps as military officers pushed their wheelchairs up to the Cenotaph, the simple stone monument engraved with the words "The Glorious Dead."

Royal Navy veteran William Stone, 103, who also served in World War II, walked with a cane and leaned on a sailor's arm to place his wreath on the memorial just outside the prime minister's office at 10 Downing St.

Henry Allingham, 108, Britain's oldest surviving veteran of what was first known as the Great War, pulled himself from his wheelchair to lay his wreath at the monument's base.

"To the boys in the trenches who did so much for me," read the card attached to it. Escorts placed the wreaths borne by Fred Lloyd, 106, and Jack Osborne, 104, alongside the others. "Remembering My Pals," said Osborne's card. Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott also led a wreath and a representative of Queen Elizabeth II laid one on her behalf.

Britain declared war on Germany and Austria-Hungary on Aug. 4, 1914, the same day the German army pushed into Belgium. Kaiser William II's Germany had invaded Luxembourg Aug. 2 and declared war on France on the third.

Many believed it would all be over by Christmas, but more than 10 million died, decimating an entire generation of Europe's men, before the fighting ended on Nov. 11, 1918.

"It brought sorrow and sadness into every hamlet, village and town and city throughout the length of our country," Dennis Goodwin, secretary of the World War I Veterans' Association, said at the brief Cenotaph ceremony.

He said the four veterans present represented all their dead comrades and the 19 other surviving British veterans of the conflict.

"They are here to acknowledge their survival and also to pay their respects to those of their colleagues who were less fortunate," Goodwin said.

Later, Allingham said the ceremony "brought back a lot of things that I have tried hard to forget."

Life imitates television

Romanians learn about EU regulations by watching popular sitcom

By ALISON MUTLER
The Associated Press

BUCHAREST, Romania — Joining the European Union is no laughing matter in impoverished Romania. But on a new hit TV comedy show, villagers learn how to use bar codes, slaughter pigs to specifications and breed goats the European Union way — all while swilling brandy at the local pub.

"The Winding Road to Europe," set in the fictional La Europa pub, features humble villagers who belly up to the bar and swap stories about how the EU — which Romania hopes to join by 2007 — will change their lives.

Four of the season's 12 episodes have aired so far. One deals with "breeding norms," explaining

how sheep, pigs, and goats can no longer be bred at will but in accordance with the European standard.

It's a bit of a hard sell in the verdant, mountainous Romanian countryside, a place of ramshackle villages and sprawling farms where nature is usually allowed, in such matters, to determine its own unregulated course.

But Boguta, the matronly owner of the bar, urges obedient compliance with the extraordinary new ways. Else, she darkly warns, "at Christmas, we'll be eating yogurt and mashed beans."

The show's characters are based on what locals consider classic stereotypes of rural Romania: the skeptic, the youth who yearns to move to the city, the matriarch, the entrepreneur and the resigned drunkard.

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U.S. taking inexperienced team to Athens

Cuba, Russia likely to take bulk of medals in Olympics

BY TIM DAHLBERG

The Associated Press

Andre Dirrell has heard the talk, and knows the expectations are low.

The U.S. boxing team is too young, too inexperienced and not hungry enough. American boxers will be lucky to win a medal or two in Athens against the talented Cubans and tough Russians.

"I just sit back and laugh at that," Dirrell said. "I know we have a strong team. I see six or seven medals for us."

Dirrell could be excused for his optimism. He might be the most naturally talented member of the U.S. team, a 165-pounder with speed and power and a legitimate shot at a medal.

The problem for American boxers in recent Olympics, though, hasn't been talent. The gold medal just seems to mean more to

U.S. Olympic boxing roster

Raul's Warren, Light flyweight (106 pounds/48kg), Cincinnati
Ron Siler, Flyweight (112 pounds/51 kg), Cincinnati
Vicente Escobedo, Lightweight (132 pounds/60 kg), Woodland, Calif.
Rock Mack, Light welterweight (141 pounds/64 kg), Philadelphia
Vanes Martirosyan, Welterweight (152 pounds/69 kg), Glendale, Calif.
Andre Dirrell, Middleweight (165 pounds/75 kg), Flint, Mich.
Andre Ward, Light heavyweight (178 pounds/81 kg), Oakland, Calif.
Devin Vargas, Heavyweight (201 pounds/91 kg), Toledo, Ohio
Jason Estrada, Super heavyweight (211+ pounds/95+ kg), Prosser, Ga.
Head coach: Staff Sgt. Basheer Abdullah, Fort Carson, Colo.

other countries. Floyd Mayweather Jr. might be the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world today, but he couldn't win a gold medal in 1996.

U.S. boxers have won only two gold medals in the last three Olympics, and were shut out four years ago in Sydney despite having top pro prospects such as



The United States' best hope for a medal might lie with Andre Dirrell, right, a middleweight from Flint, Mich. Dirrell defeated Cuba's Yordanis Despaigne for the gold medal in the Olympic test event in Athens last May.

Rocky Juarez, Jeff Lacy and Jermain Taylor on the team.

For the first time in 52 years, there were no American boxing gold medals, and just two silver and one bronze.

"The thing I feel strongly is our boxers aren't hungry enough," said Dr. Robert Voy, president of USA Boxing. "Things are too easy in the United States and the pros tantalize them with all sorts of promises of fame and fortune. They don't really care about it."

If that's to change in Athens, Staff Sgt. Basheer Abdullah, the U.S. coach, has his work cut out for him.

Abdullah, who is also the head coach of the Army's World Class Athlete Program boxing team at Fort Carson, Colo., has two teenagers on the team, and only nine boxers overall. Americans failed to qualify in two weight classes, further dampening medal chances.

The U.S. team has little international experience, though Dirrell beat Cuba's Yordanis Despaigne

for the gold medal in the Olympic test event in Athens in May.

"Our athletes are so young and we only keep them around one Olympics which puts us behind the whole world," Basheer said. "Not having the experience is the biggest handicap."

Some former Olympians believe other things work against the team, too, from judges who don't like Americans to those who favor less flashy styles.

"The point system is made for the European style and I believe the judges are biased, too," said Taylor, who won a bronze in Sydney. "It's in our blood to be cocky, and they don't like that."

Just like four years ago, the U.S. lacks experience but has plenty of exuberance. It includes a 17-year-old 106-pounder in Raul's Warren and a focused lightweight in Vicente Escobedo.

Escobedo usually has friends and family from Woodland, Calif., follow him everywhere he fights, and it will be no different in Athens where about 15 people will travel to see him in action.

"I'm going to go out and win a gold medal," Escobedo said. "That two weeks determines the rest of your life and I really know what I want. When I set my mind on something, I do everything in my power to get it."

If the U.S. team is to do well, though, it may have to rely on a pair of Andres — Dirrell and light heavyweight Andre Ward.

Ward hasn't lost since 1998 and has won two U.S. championships. Dirrell, who was fighting at 125 pounds only three years ago, brought up the speed and dazzling skills to the 165-pound class.

Dirrell's victory over Despaigne in Athens was crucial in building confidence for the American team against the group of Cuban veterans.

In Athens, Dirrell believes he cannot only win, but win over the crowd. "I'll make the crowd love me," he said. "They won't love me when I come out, but they'll love me when I leave."

As always, Cuba is expected to be the strongest team in Athens. Russia won't be far behind, and the former Soviet republics like Kazakhstan will be in the mix.

"I think the rest of the world is catching up to the Cubans," Abdullah said. "They're not the dominant team that they were in the past."

In the past, some U.S. boxers seemed intimidated fighting Cubans who might have been a decade older. But they also failed to adapt to the international style of boxing, which means throwing punches — and lots of them. "The Eastern Europeans come back to the Olympics over and over again while as Americans all we get is one chance," said Taylor, who lost in the semifinals to a boxer from Kazakhstan. "They never give up, it's their bread and butter. If I could fight the guy I lost to again I'd beat him hands down."



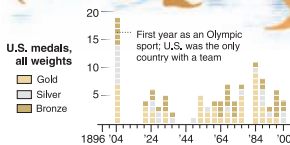
Devin Vargas, a 22-year-old from Toledo, Ohio, will represent the United States in the heavyweight division in the Olympic Games at Athens.

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Boxing was among the first sports in the ancient Games. Athletes bound their hands and forearms with soft leather for protection. While the game has been modernized — the spirit of the event has changed little. Two athletes face each other in one-on-one competition. Boxers qualify for the 11 weight categories in regional tournaments.

Currently, only men box in the Olympics.



SOURCES: International Olympic Committee, Athens Olympic Committee, "Sports: The Complete Visual History," Francois Fortin, "The Complete Book of the Summer Olympics," David Waldstreicher

Catherine New, Chris Kaeser • AP

Report: Sprinter Young fails second drug test

The Associated Press

PARIS—Jerome Young reportedly tested positive for the banned drug EPO during a meet last Friday, which would be the second flunked test for a sprinter who might cost the U.S. relay team its gold medal from the Sydney Olympics.

Young would face a lifetime ban if he is found guilty.

The French sports daily L'Equipe reported Sunday that Young's sample from a July 23 meet in Saint Denis contained traces of the endurance-boosting drug. L'Equipe, which based its report on anonymous sources, said a laboratory is analyzing a second sample.

Istvan Gyulai, secretary general of the International Association of Athletics Federations, said he could not confirm the report, but he added: "If everything is correct and this is a doping offense, it is very clearly a life suspension."

Young's lawyer, Stephen Chien, did not return a phone call for comment.

Young, the 400-meter world champion, did not qualify for the Athens Olympics.

He tested positive for the steroid nandrolone in 1999 and was stripped of his gold medal from the 275 on 400-meter relay team, which included Michael Johnson. The IAAF recommended last month that the entire team be penalized because Young should have been ineligible.

The International Olympic Committee on Saturday delayed a final ruling on the rest of the team's medals, pending appeals.

Sorenstam wins in Stockholm

STOCKHOLM, Sweden—Annika Sorenstam made a bogey in a course-record 8-under-par 64 Sunday for a two-stroke victory in the HP Open—a short drive from where the Hall of Famer grew up.

Sorenstam won this event for the fourth time. She was two shots behind entering the final round and finished at 13-under 275 on the tough lakeside layout in Ulina.

Countrywoman Carin Koch, who shared the lead with Becky Maynard and Wales entering Sunday, closed with a 68 for a 277. Morgan (70) was at 279 and Scotland's Janice Moodie (68) was at 280.

DiMarco falls into tie in Colo.

CASTLE ROCK, Colo.—Chris DiMarco had eight bogeys and only three birdies in the third round Saturday to drop into a tie for the lead with Rod Pampling in The International, setting up what could be a wild finish.

DiMarco, the second-round leader, appeared to headed toward a runaway victory with 31 points and a nine-point lead in the modified Stableford scoring system event, but ended up losing 27 in the third round with his stroke-play 77.

DiMarco's collapse allowed 17 players to move within 10 points of the current leader for huge swings of momentum—from 8 points for a double eagle to minus-3 for double bogey or

Sports briefs

worse. Alex Cejka was two points back after a six-birdie round, and Tom Pernice and Bob Tway were tied for fourth with 26.

Britain's Lynn wins KLM Open

HILVERSUM, Netherlands—Britain's David Lynn won the KLM Dutch Open on Sunday by three strokes, shooting a 4-under-par 66 for his first victory on the European Tour.

He entered the final day three strokes behind third-round leader Richard Green of Australia. Lynn finished at 16-under 264, closing with a birdie on the 18th despite sending his final drive into tall grass. Green shot a 72 and shared second with Ireland's Paul McGinley, who had a 65 for the day's best round.

Australian hurdler Pittman still hoping to run in Olympics

ATHENS, Greece—The Australian Olympic Committee refused to rule 400-meter hurdles world champion Jana Pittman out of the Olympics even though she said her season was over because of an injured knee.

"We are told that there is still hope in respect of her participation in the Games, but she is under suspicion," Peter Montgomery, vice president of the Australian Olympic Committee, told reporters on Sunday.

He said Pittman had undergone arthroscopic surgery on her right knee in a London hospital.

The 21-year-old is Australia's best hope for Olympic gold in the 400-meter field. She missed cartilage in her knee while doing hurdles drills in a warmup exercise before a Golden League meet in Zurich, Switzerland, on Friday.

Green judo champion fights for her life

ATHENS, Greece—With only a week to go before the Games begin, Ellen Jameson was fighting for her life instead of perfecting her moves as a promising young member of the Greek Olympic judo team.

Her family sobbed and kept vigil outside her room in the intensive care unit of Red Cross Hospital, where she was taken Saturday after falling from the third-floor balcony of her apartment. Police said she had argued with her boyfriend just before it happened.

The fall left the 20-year-old on life-support, with multiple fractures to her head and body. She was critical but stable after several hours of surgery, according to a doctor who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Ioanno was competing in the 78-kg-pigeon category and planned to move into the Olympic Village with the rest of the team Wednesday, two days before opening ceremony.

At some point during or after the argument, she fell from the balcony. The reasons remain unclear and an investigation continues.

Police questioned her boyfriend, who called for an ambulance, but later released him.



Dale Earnhardt Jr. has slumped recently, finishing no better than 22nd in the past three Nextel Cup races.

Earnhardt Jr. still trying to recover, save season

Team has been declining ever since driver was burned in sports car crash

BY JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS—Dale Earnhardt Jr. limped through the garage, the burns on his legs still raw enough to make even the slightest of steps painful.

Yet he's determined to race in the Brickyard 400 Sunday, eager to finish every lap and stop the slide his Dale Earnhardt Inc. team has been on since he was injured in a sports-car crash July 18.

He gave way to relief drivers the past two races, partly because of the pain in his legs and partly because the No. 8 Chevrolet was so bad.

"We're not a championship-winning team right now and I think everyone knows that," Earnhardt said Saturday after qualifying fifth at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Things definitely aren't going well for NASCAR's most popular driver, who has dropped a spot to third in the standings and now trails series leader Jimmie Johnson by 267 points.

Although Earnhardt is probably a lock to qualify for the 10-race Chase for the Championship, he doesn't appear to be a serious threat to the title because of the climate surrounding him and his team.

Earnhardt has been candid with his criticism of his team, refusing to cover for a crew that has been slow on pit stops and unable to build a car that is comfortable for the driver.

Then his accident in an extracurricular American Le Mans Series race opened him up to criticism that he jeopardized his championship hopes. He has two nurses with him in Indy, helping him change the wraps on his wounds and easing him in and out of the bathtub for 45-minute soaks.

"It's difficult on the team right now because we have two problems: We have the driver trying to get

right and we have a team that's not right," he said. "We try not to go into panic mode and get crazy, or move people and make rash decisions because Teresa [Earnhardt] and I don't believe you change partners in the middle of the dance."

On top of the driver and team ailments, Earnhardt is being dogged by whispers of a rift with his stepmother, Teresa, who runs DEI.

Because Earnhardt has been bringing his mother, Brenda, to the races to help him with his wounds, there have been rumors that Teresa refused to let them travel together on her plane.

"Teresa totally wouldn't be like that," Earnhardt said. "She knows that I needed my mom to help me with my wraps and stuff. That kind of bummed me out that people would say those things."

Earnhardt glossed over addressing the state of his relationship with his stepmother, choosing instead to explain why he's been bumming plane rides from rival teams the past few weeks. So if there's a rift between them, he's keeping it to himself.

Earnhardt started the year with a victory in the season-opening Daytona 500 and added two more victories before June began. He also sat on top of the driver standings for nine weeks.

His slide started in early June and has shown no signs of stopping. He's finished 22nd, 31st and 25th in the last three races and revealed Saturday he got out of the car the past two weeks not because of his pain, but because he refused to fight with the equipment any longer.

"We fell off, not all at once, but I think from the start of the year until now it has been a slow progression to our demise," Earnhardt said. "We just want to get it right. If we do, or if we don't, this ain't our farewell tour. We'll be back next year and try again."

Busch edges Sauter in Kroger 200 at Indy

The Associated Press

CLERMONT, Ind.—Kyle Busch passed up a final pit stop for tires, then held off charging Johnny Sauter in the closing laps to win the NASCAR Kroger 200 Busch Series race Saturday night at Indianapolis Raceway Park.

Sauter, who also finished second in the Craftsman Truck race Friday night, started from the pole, but lost the lead when he pitted after 131 of the 200 laps on the 0.86-mile oval.

He dropped back to 14th but steadily worked his

way back toward the front. Then when Greg Biffle and David Green took their final pit stops, Busch stayed on the track and inherited the lead he kept for the final 44 laps.

Sauter moved up during a series of cautions and passed Jason Leffler for second place with 22 laps remaining. He was still three seconds behind Busch at that point, but the margin to under a second in the final 10 laps.

Busch, winning his fourth race of the season to remain in second place in the standings, beat Sauter to the finish by 0.896 seconds. Leffler was third, and points leader Martin Truex Jr. finished fourth.

Cardinals RB Shipp out with broken leg

The Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — Arizona Cardinals running back Marcel Shipp, the team's leading rusher last season, will miss at least eight weeks with a broken left leg.

Cardinals coach Dennis Green said Shipp appeared to have dislocated his left ankle in the team's intrasquad scrimmage on Friday, but more X-rays revealed a broken fibula.

"We were hoping that would not be the case, but it looks like it probably will be," Green said Saturday. "We'll just take our time and make sure he's on the heal and on the mend and look at the rest of it later."

A team official said Saturday that Shipp will have a plate and screws inserted into the injured leg in a few days to stabilize the fracture, and additional surgery to add pins is expected.

Shipp, who led the Cardinals with 830 rushing yards in 2003, was caught beneath a pile during a routine running play and had to be helped off the field on a cart. He was unavailable for comment Saturday.

"I talked to him (Friday) night and he seemed pretty good, so I assume he had some pretty good pain medication," Cardinals run-



ning back Damien Anderson said. "He was up in spirits. He seemed very, very positive."

Anderson and Josh Scobey will now battle it out for the No. 2 spot on the depth chart behind starting running back Emmitt Smith.

Bills: Buffalo running back Willis McGahee found the end zone often Saturday in his first NFL exhibition game.

The former Miami Hurricanes star was selected 23rd overall in the 2003 draft, but missed all of last season after reconstructive surgery on his left knee. McGahee finished with 10 carries for 40 yards and one reception for 8 yards against the Browns in Saturday's scrimmage.

McGahee scored up the middle on a 1-yard plunge to cap a six-play, 65-yard drive and scored on three straight plays from the 2 during a goal-line drill.

On his way back to the sideline, McGahee was greeted by a standing ovation from the crowd at the Bills training camp site in suburban Rochester.

"It's good to know that they're behind me and they want to see how I do," McGahee said. "And I'm just glad to score and let them know that I can still do certain things."

Redskins: Coach Joe Gibbs named Mark Brunell the starter for Monday night's Hall of Fame game against Denver in Canton, Ohio. The 11-year veteran says no one should expect to see regular-season crispness in the first preseason game.

"It's important that you look sharp every day, particularly when you approach a game," Brunell said. "We've got to be prepared."



Buffalo Bills running back Willis McGahee (21) looks for a running lane during a scrimmage against the Cleveland Browns at Bills training camp at St. John Fisher College, in Pittsford, N.Y., Saturday. McGahee scored four touchdowns in his first NFL exhibition game. He missed all of last season with a knee injury.

tent, understanding that during the course of this preseason that there may be some three-and-outs. There may be some moments where we struggle a little bit, but I think we're going to be all right."

Titans and Falcons: Tennessee and Atlanta scrimmaged before 31,408 fans, capping up three days of practices between the teams on Saturday. Titans quarterback Steve McNair, the league's co-MVP, didn't practice in the two morning sessions, but took part during a first-team session and the two-minute drill.

Atlanta quarterback Michael Vick tossed a handful of passes early, then left the offense in the hands of rookie Matt Shaub.

Vick watched the rest of the workout from the sidelines while he rested his right hamstring.

Rookie Quincy Wilson, son of former Chicago linebacker Otis Wilson, had eight carries for 47 yards for Atlanta. Titans rookie Jarrett Payton, son of the late Walter Payton, had five carries for 23 yards.

Colts: Five Indianapolis players did not take part in Saturday's scrimmage due to injury: rookie linebacker Antonio Cook, rookie

defensive tackle Nautyn McKay-Loescher, defensive tackle David Pugh, cornerback Corey Chamblin, and cornerback Willie Miles.

Offensive tackle Tarik Glenn missed his fifth straight day of practice as he tries to get under a team-mandated weight limit.

Browns: Cleveland linebacker Brant Boyer will miss at least eight weeks after undergoing surgery to repair a broken bone in his right foot.

Boyer, a 10-year veteran and the Browns' special teams captain, was hurt Friday when someone stepped on his foot during practice.

Chargers: The San Diego Chargers have signed journeyman quarterback Joe Germaine.

Germaine played in the Arena Football League last season and hasn't played in an NFL game since 1999.

Starter Drew Brees is healthy but backup Doug Flutie will be sidelined for two weeks after having arthroscopic surgery on his knee. Cleo Lemon, a member of the practice squad last year, is San Diego's other quarterback. Rookie Philip Rivers is still unsigned.

Germaine was drafted by St. Louis in 1999. He also played for Kansas City and Cincinnati in the NFL.

Rams and Bears: St. Louis quarterback Marc Bulger and running back Marshall Faulk did not play in the Rams' scrimmage Saturday against the Chicago Bears in Macomb, Ill. Chicago linebacker Brian Urlacher, nursing a hamstring injury, and wide receiver Marty Booker also sat out.

Bengals: Cincinnati rookie linebacker Landon Johnson sat out a mock game due to a sore shoulder suffered during Friday's scrimmage. Left tackle Levi Jones, injured in a car accident July 29, is expected back at practice on Monday. He has been limited to conditioning drills the entire training camp. Guard Eric Steinbach (sore elbow) is expected to return to practice sometime next week.

Texans: Houston center Dennis O'Sullivan, who went down Friday with a right knee injury, was diagnosed with a sprain.

Raiders: Adam Treu, who has been listed as Oakland's starting center, returned to practice Saturday. The Raiders are easing him back in because of a sore shoulder.

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When You Can't Call Home

Tonight's Emails

Colvin back at practice with Patriots

The Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. — Linebacker Roosevelt Colvin practiced with the New England Patriots Sunday for the first time in nearly a year since breaking his left hip in the second game of last season.

"It's almost a year from when the surgery happened, and I don't know if I'm normal or not," Colvin said. "I have to get out there in a live practice, a live game situation, to see if my production level is the same as before."

Colvin joined the Patriots after the 2002 season, leaving the Chicago Bears to sign a six-year, \$25 mil-

lion contract to help bolster New England's pass rushing. He has 28 career sacks and had two last season before the injury on Sept. 14 against Philadelphia.

Patriot coach Bill Belichick said Colvin's progress was on schedule, but offered no hints whether the sixth-year veteran would play for the defending Super Bowl champs in the preseason opener against the Eagles on Friday.

"He's come along, he's worked hard, he's made some steady promise. He's not there yet, but hopefully he will continue to make strides in that direction," Belichick said.

Netherlands picks up first victory in Kutno

BY RUSTY BRYAN

Stars and Stripes

KUTNO, Poland — After their first three games in Little League Baseball's Transatlantic Regional qualifying tournament, the coaches of Netherlands champion Brunsom-Schinnen were tearing out their hair over their team's double-digit losses to Belgium, England and Germany.

Sunday, they happily surrendered what hair they had left after their team downed Italy champion Naples 14-10 in this event for 11-12-year-olds.

"We made a deal with the coaches that they'd shave their heads if we won," said Shayne Rhyno, a Canadian 12-year-old who singled three times, drove in three runs and picked up the save with three innings of relief pitching on a fourth, straight warm, sunny and breezy day at Little League's European headquarters.

The victory, built around an eight-run first inning and a six-run third, brought the Netherlands' record to 1-3 in the round-robin portion of the tournament, which determines which team of Europe-based expatriates advances to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pa., Aug. 20-29. That tied them with Italy and Spain going into Sunday's late game between England (2-0) and Belgium (1-1).

The Netherlands will have a chance to break the tie at 3 p.m. Monday when they take on Spain champion Madrid.

Madrid dropped a 9-3 decision

Little League

in extra innings Sunday to Ramstein, the Germany champions, but Rhyno was taking nothing for granted.

"They're as good as us," he said.

Jesse Gratton, who doubled and singled in four at-bats, drove in four runs for the Netherlands, which got three RBIs from Matthew Leugers.

Naples battled back with a seven-run rally in the third. Consecutive doubles by Devon Mitchell and Jorgio Richardson opened the inning, which ended with the Italy champs cutting their deficit to 8-7. That was as close as they'd get.

Ramstein 9, Madrid 3 (7 innings): Madrid starter Bucky Ribbeck held Ramstein to three runs, striking out eight over six innings.

Ramstein reliever Chris Johnson took a 3-2 lead into the bottom of the sixth and final inning, only to see Madrid convert a leadoff walk he issued to Ribbeck into the tying run on Paul Boerema's single.

Madrid loaded the bases with one out, but with the potential winning run poised just 60 feet from home plate, Johnson struck out Angel Pajelo and Adrian Vargas to force extra innings.

Johnson then stroked a three-run homer to dead center during Ramstein's six-run seventh off Madrid reliever Robert Wahlert.

His effort boosted Ramstein's record to 2-1 going into Monday's 10 a.m. game against Belgium. Ramstein's loss came on Thursday, 12-1 to Saudi Arabia (3-0), whose desert all-stars were idle Sunday.

Asked whether he enjoyed the clutch strikeouts or his homer better, Johnson replied, "both, but it was fun to get the team pumped up with the homer."

Ramstein's Dershawn Murray backed up Johnson's assessment.

"In the sixth, we were all so scared," he said, "but Chris got it done."

The blast was Johnson's second of the tournament, but neither came off Ribbeck.

"He's a tough pitcher," Johnson said of the right-hander who struck him out in his first appearances on Sunday. "They wear white pants, and it's hard to pick up the ball against his leg on the high kick. You have to watch his hand all the time."

Johnson was pitching in relief of Ramstein starter Andrew Bosert, who held Spain to two runs, striking out five and walking none over five innings. At the plate, he singled twice, walked and scored a run.

"It was the best game I've ever had at a tournament," he said, "pitching and hitting."

Monday's other game pits Saudi Arabia, four-time defending champion here, against England. Round-robin play continues through Wednesday, with the top four teams squaring off in Thursday's semifinals. The championship game is set for 2 p.m. Friday.



RUSTY BRYAN/Stars and Stripes

Ramstein's Chris Johnson fouls off a pitch during Ramstein's 9-3 victory over Madrid on Sunday in the Little League Transatlantic Regional at Kutno, Poland. Johnson was the winning pitcher in relief and hit a three-run homer during Ramstein's six-run seventh inning.

Family ties abound on United States' swim team

BY BETH HARRIS

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — U.S. swimmers really mean it when they say the Olympic team feels like family. For Dana and Tara Kirk and Klete and Kalyan Keller, it is family.

The Kirks are the first sisters to compete on the same U.S. Olympic swim team. Toss in the Kellers, and it's the first U.S. Olympic team with two sets of swimming siblings since 1976.

"I'm looking forward to hanging out with her," said Klete, who at 22 is two years older than his sister.

The U.S. team nearly had three sets of siblings, but Hayley Peirso finished fifth in the 800-meter freestyle in the U.S. trials and failed to join older brother, Aaron, on the team.

In the 1976 Montreal Games, Shirley and Jack Babashoff won a combined five medals, while brothers Bruce and Steve Furniss won three medals between them. In 1972, Lynn and Rick Colella made the team, with Lynn winning the only medal.

The Kellers come from an athletic family in Phoenix. Dad Kelly played basketball for Arizona



Tara Kirk competes in the preliminary event of the women's 200-meter breaststroke in the U.S. Olympic swim trials in Long Beach, Calif., on July 11. Kirk and her sister Dana are the first sisters to compete on the same U.S. Olympic swim team.

State, mom Karen swam for the Aztecs, and oldest sister Kelsey swam at Washington.

Producing two Olympians never was a goal.

Klete and Kalyan started swimming as kids, with Kalyan usually beating her brother ("I used to get angry about that," he said).

Puberty helped him catch up.

"She's a really good workout trainer and she beats a lot of the boys," he said.

Klete won two medals at the 2000 Olympics; Kalyan didn't qualify for those Sydney Games even though she was considered a shoo-in to make the team.

While the rest of the family traveled Down Under to cheer Klete

on, Kalyan stayed home. At her mother's insistence.

"I wanted her to experience the Olympics as an athlete rather than a spectator," Karen said. "When she had to sit at home and watch her brothers on TV, it really gave her something to strive for and she really wanted to do it. Not letting her go last time was a carrot for her. I thought in my heart that was the best thing."

It was. Kalyan, who attends Southern California, will swim the grueling 400 and 800 freestyles in Athens.

"She'll probably be a little nervous, so I can be there for her," Klete said. "She's worked so hard for all these years."

Not to be outdone, Klete will swim the 200 and 400 freestyles and the 800 freestyle relay.

Are they alike? Hardly.

At 6-foot-6, Klete epitomizes the strong, laconic type, except for one-liners like, "I don't have that big of a vocabulary. I didn't finish college yet."

He stands a foot taller than Kalyan, whose perkiness could give "Today" show host Katie Couric a run for her money.

"He's so laid back and quiet, and she's like a politician," their mother said. "She's very vocal about her goals. With him, everything is a big secret."

The Kirk sisters, who were in the pool at 6 months, grew up on Puget Sound in Bremerton, Wash.

"I've been waiting for this a long time," Dana Kirk said.

"It's going to be great having someone there who knows what I need to swim my best."

The sisters were "95 percent there" they would room together in Athens, according to Dana, who is two years younger than 22-year-old Tara.

"We like to eat the same kind of food and we know what the other needs," she said.

The Olympics is only the second swimming trip the Kirks have been on together.

"We're both going to have to get a lot faster to have medal potential," Dana said. "Tara and I are both competitive, we just push each other a lot."

They each qualified in one event: Dana in the 200 butterfly (she's a long shot); Tara in the 100 breaststroke (she's a medal threat).

Regardless of their medals haul, Karen Keller thinks these siblings will take home special memories no matter what.

"It's a wonderful bond they'll have for the rest of their lives," she said.

Major League Baseball scoreboard

American League				
East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	59	48	.549	
Boston	59	54	.519	
Tampa Bay	57	57	.500	
Baltimore	51	67	.432	
Seattle	43	67	.392	

Central Division				
Minnesota	57	54	.614	
Cleveland	51	59	.461	
Detroit	49	64	.434	
Kansas City	47	67	.411	
Chicago	46	67	.407	

West Division				
Oakland	60	48	.556	
Los Angeles	57	54	.511	
Seattle	41	69	.370	
San Francisco	39	67	.367	

Sunday's games				
Minnesota 4, Oakland 3				
N.Y. Yankees 6, Toronto 5				
Seattle 5, Texas 1				
Seattle 5, Tampa Bay 2				
Los Angeles 3, Houston 5				
Cleveland 4, Chicago White Sox 1				
Anheim 7, Kansas City 5				

Monday's games				
Texas (Baskin) 10, at Baltimore (Borkowski) 7-2				
Toronto (Towers) 6-4 at N.Y. Yankees (Loah) 5-2				
Villanova (Harden) 5-0 at Minnesota (Chase) 13-5				
Tampa Bay (Halama) 5-0 at Boston (Schilling) 13-5				

Tuesday's games				
Tampa Bay at Boston				
Toronto at Cleveland				
N.Y. Yankees at Texas				
Yankees City at Chicago White Sox				
Minnesota at Seattle				
Baltimore at Anaheim				
Detroit at Oakland				

Saturday				
Twins 4, Athletics 3				

Oakland				
ab	r	b	r	b
Byrnes	4	1	0	0
Chavez	3	0	0	0
DeLoach	4	1	0	0
Harmon	4	1	0	0
Thorne	4	1	0	0
Dunbar	4	1	0	0
McLach	4	1	0	0
Ortiz	4	1	0	0
Kosay	4	1	0	0
Trotter	4	1	0	0
Wright	4	1	0	0
Yan	4	1	0	0
Totals	35	10	0	0

Minnesota				
ab	r	b	r	b
Byrnes	4	1	0	0
Chavez	3	0	0	0
DeLoach	4	1	0	0
Harmon	4	1	0	0
Thorne	4	1	0	0
Dunbar	4	1	0	0
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Trotter	4	1	0	0
Wright	4	1	0	0
Yan	4	1	0	0
Totals	35	10	0	0

National League				
East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	62	47	.569	
Philadelphia	57	53	.518	
Florida	55	59	.483	
Milwaukee	43	66	.396	
Montreal	41	66	.385	

Central Division				
St. Louis	58	48	.551	
Chicago	61	49	.555	
Houston	55	50	.520	
Cincinnati	53	58	.478	
Pittsburgh	50	56	.468	

West Division				
San Diego	59	51	.536	
Los Angeles	57	52	.520	
San Francisco	49	64	.435	
Colorado	47	67	.411	

Saturday's games				
St. Louis 2, N.Y. Mets 1				
Atlanta 3, Arizona 2				
Chicago Cubs, San Francisco 4				
Milwaukee 3, Philadelphia 2				
Montreal 1, Houston 3				
St. Louis 3, San Diego 1				
Los Angeles 6, Philadelphia 3				
Montreal at Houston				
N.Y. Mets at St. Louis				
Cincinnati at Florida				
Philadelphia at San Diego				
Philadelphia at Los Angeles				
Chicago Cubs at San Francisco				
Colorado (Wright) 1-4 at Philadelphia (Millon) 12-2				

Sunday's games				
St. Louis 4, Philadelphia 3				
Montreal 1, Houston 3				
N.Y. Mets at St. Louis				
Cincinnati at Florida				
Philadelphia at San Diego				
Philadelphia at Los Angeles				
Chicago Cubs at San Francisco				
Colorado (Wright) 1-4 at Philadelphia (Millon) 12-2				

Monday's games				
St. Louis 4, Philadelphia 3				
Montreal 1, Houston 3				
N.Y. Mets at St. Louis				
Cincinnati at Florida				
Philadelphia at San Diego				
Philadelphia at Los Angeles				
Chicago Cubs at San Francisco				
Colorado (Wright) 1-4 at Philadelphia (Millon) 12-2				

Tuesday's games				
Arizona at Montreal				
St. Louis at Philadelphia				
San Francisco at Pittsburgh				
Philadelphia at Houston				
Houston at N.Y. Mets				
Los Angeles at Cincinnati				
Milwaukee at Atlanta				
San Diego at Chicago Cubs				

Saturday				
Cardinals 2, Mets 1				

irm L6-9	5	4	3	3	2	1	MCL
his	1 1/2	0	2	2	2	1	Floyd
vine	0	2	2	2	0	0	Cmer
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n	1	1	0	0	0	0	Wright
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nderman	(Youkils)	WP-PMartinez					Wense

Santana beats Hudson in match of aces

Martinez passes Clemens' mark for double-digit strikeout games

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Johan Santana struck out 10, outpitching Tim Hudson in a marquee matchup as the streaking Minnesota Twins beat the Oakland Athletics 4-3 on Saturday.

Santana (11-6) won his fourth straight decision and reached double digits in strikeouts for the eighth time in his last 10 starts, increasing his AL-leading total to 183.

AL Roundup

Torri Hunter scored twice and drove in a run for the Twins, who have won 14 of 18.

Hudson (7-4) pitched well in his return to the mound for Oakland, which lost for just the fourth time in 14 games. Activated from the 15-day disabled list before the game, the right-hander allowed four runs and eight hits in 5 1/2 innings. He struck out four and walked one in his first outing since June 22, when he strained his left oblique muscle.

Red Sox 7, Tigers 4: Pedro Martinez struck out 11 for the second straight start and David Ortiz drove in two runs in his first game since a five-game suspension for the visiting Red Sox.

It was Martinez's 69th 10-strikeout game with Boston, breaking the team record he shared with Roger Clemens. He allowed two runs — one earned — and five singles in seven innings.

Martinez (12-4) struck out the first five he faced, and seven through three innings, in helping the Red Sox end a two-game losing streak.

Jeremy Bonderman (6-9) is 0-3 in his last five starts.

Angels 7, Royals 5: Bartolo Colon won his sixth straight start



Anaheim baserunner Garret Anderson slides past the tag of Kansas City's John Buck to score a run in the fifth inning of Saturday night's game.

and Darin Erstad drove in three runs to lead visiting Anaheim.

Colon (11-8) gave up four runs on eight hits and struck out seven for the Angels, who have won six of their last eight to move within 1 1/2 games of first-place Oakland and a half-game of second-place Texas in the AL West.

Indians 6, White Sox 5: Matt Lawton's three-run homer off Shingo Takatsu in the ninth vaulted the visiting Indians into second place in the AL Central.

Takatsu (4-3) blew his first save of the season, allowing sin-

gles by Coco Crisp and Grady Sizemore before Lawton's go-ahead shot.

The Indians won for the 11th time in 16 games, while the stunned White Sox lost for the 11th time in 13 games.

Mariners 5, Devil Rays 2: Ron Villone (4-2) allowed two runs and four hits in six-plus innings and Miguel Olivo hit a three-run homer, leading Seattle over host Tampa Bay.

Mariners manager Bob Melvin was ejected while exchanging lineup cards before the game. He

argued with crew chief Joe West, one night after Seattle lost on a disputed obstruction call in the 10th inning.

Yankees 6, Blue Jays 0: Orlando Hernandez won his fourth straight decision in a remarkable comeback for host New York.

Hernandez (4-0), who had rotator cuff surgery last year and was released by Montreal in December, allowed five hits in eight innings. He struck out six and walked two as the Yankees won their fourth in a row.

In three outings against Toron-

to, Hernandez has not allowed a run in 17 innings.

Orioles 3, Rangers 1: Rodrigo Lopez (9-7) faced one batter over the minimum through 6 1/2 innings and the host Orioles beat former teammate Scott Erickson (0-1) for their fifth straight victory.

Jorge Julio worked the ninth for his 18th save in 20 chances. He gave up a home run to Alfonso Soriano with one out.

Erickson yielded three runs and 10 hits in 5 1/2 innings in his debut with Texas, which got him him last week in a trade with the New York Mets.

Dodgers send inconsistent Ishii to pen

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Kazuhisa Ishii was demoted to the Los Angeles Dodgers' bullpen on Saturday and replaced in the rotation by left-hander Wilson Alvarez.

Dodgers manager Jim Tracy was frustrated with Ishii's inconsistency despite an 11-5 record.

"I probably wasn't too surprised at anything," Ishii said through a closed-door meeting with Tracy. "I'm disappointed, but I've got to do what the team wants right now."

Ishii retired only six of 12 batters in Friday night's 9-5 loss to Philadelphia and allowed four home runs, but did get the nod as the game before losing in 11 innings.



Ishii has allowed 18 earned runs in 15 1/2 innings over his last four starts, raising his ERA to 4.76. He has made 22 starts overall, allowing no more than two earned runs in 11 of them — but has given up at least five earned runs in five of his last nine outings.

"I don't think it was fair to the club to come out to the ballpark at this late juncture of the season and wonder which guy is going to show up," Tracy said.

"I'm not looking at him as solely a relief pitcher, but at this time, we're going to do what's in the best interests of everyone. Kaz is on board with being used out of

the bullpen. He could be put back in the rotation, but that's all dependent on the five who will be in there."

Ishii, the only pitcher in the majors to issue at least 100 walks in each of the previous two seasons, again is among the NL leaders in bases on balls with 73 in 123 innings. Over the last three seasons he has won 29 games before the All-Star break, more than any NL pitcher — but after the All-Star break is only 5-10.

Alvarez is 6-3 with a 3.30 ERA this season. In 10 starts, he is 5-2 with a 3.52 ERA.

Tigers activate Monroe

DETROIT — The Detroit Tigers activated Craig Monroe from the disabled list before Saturday's game against the Boston

Red Sox but the outfielder isn't expected to play until Detroit starts a road trip next week.

Monroe has been out since July 21 because of a strained left hamstring. He is hitting .278 with four homers in 77 games.

Monroe took the roster spot of backup catcher Mike DeFelice, who was optioned to Class AAA Toledo on Friday after the Tigers beat Boston. DeFelice hit .136 in 22 at-bats this season.

Piedra called up to fill Walker's roster spot

DENVER — The Colorado Rockies recalled outfielder Jorge Piedra on Saturday to fill the roster spot vacated when Larry Walker was traded to St. Louis.

Piedra was hitting .334 with 15 home runs and 55 RBIs at Class AAA Colorado Springs.



Inconsistency has cost Kazuhisa Ishii his spot in the Los Angeles Dodgers' starting rotation.

Walker plays a part in fast win with Cardinals

All-Star given warm welcome in St. Louis

By R.B. FALLSTROM
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Larry Walker is 1-0 with the St. Louis Cardinals, and he played a supporting role in the victory with his new team.

Rookie Yadier Molina, batting with the bases loaded after an intentional walk to Walker, blooped a single to center with two outs in the ninth inning Saturday for a 2-1 victory over the New York Mets.

Walker, acquired in a trade with Colorado on Friday night, was welcomed with a standing ovation that lasted well over a minute when he pinch-hit with two on and one out in the seventh. A near-sellout crowd of 45,364 stood on its feet throughout the at-bat and gave him another ovation even after he struck out against Kris Benson.

"Probably one of the most nervous at-bats I've had in my career was today," Walker said. "The ovation I got, even after I struck out, I felt like I was supposed to wave to the crowd and say thanks. It was amazing."

Walker soon participated in the winning rally. The fans boomed when the five-time All-Star was walked intentionally by Mike Stanton (0-5) with runners on second and third and two outs in the ninth. Molina followed by dumping a soft single into shallow left-center.

"They walked a good hitter," Molina said. "They're just playing the game. That was my part."

Mets manager Art Howe said it would have been dumb to pitch to Walker. Stanton blamed himself for walking the first two hitters he faced, including John Mabry on four pitches.

"You get yourself in a corner like that, there's no room for error," Stanton said. "It's just ridiculous. I can't go out there and do what I just did."



St. Louis Cardinals' Larry Walker runs back to the dugout after taking the field in the eighth inning for the first time as a Cardinal.

Walker, the 1997 NL MVP, arrived at Busch Stadium about a half-hour before the game, too late to be in the starting lineup with his new team. But he went to right field after pinch-hitting, perhaps easing his transition to St. Louis after 9½ seasons in Colorado.

"I'm happy to be here," Walker said. "It's a great situation, great team, great fans. There's only one way to think, and that's good."

Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said before the game that he would bat Walker second or fourth in the lineup when he makes his first start Sunday in the finale of a six-game homestand. But Walker said he would be batting fifth against left-hander Al Leiter.

Steve Kline and Julian Tavarez (4-3) combined to strike out the side in the top of the ninth for the Cardinals, who have won 15 of 19 and have the best record in the major leagues at 71-38.



St. Louis Cardinals catcher Yadier Molina (41) celebrates his game-winning base hit with Edgar Renteria after beating the Mets 2-1.

Woody Williams and Benson had strong starts. Williams had a no-hitter through five innings for St. Louis, and gave up one run and two hits in seven innings. Benson allowed a run and four hits in seven innings in his second start for the Mets.

The teams combined for only eight hits, five by the Cardinals.

Williams also made the defensive play of the game with a sliding stop of Reyes' drag bunt near the first-base line in the third and a shovel toss to first for the out. In his last 10 starts, he's 5-0 with a 2.77 ERA.

Maddux: Low-key approach to No. 300

MADDUX, FROM BACK PAGE

"He's trying to find out different things from hitters, batting coaches, pitching coaches. He studies the opposing managers. This guy is always studying to try and get ahead."

No. 300 came nearly 18 years after his first major league win on Sept. 7, 1986, when the 20-year-old rookie scattered 11 hits to beat Cincinnati and become the youngest Cub pitcher to win a game along with the youngest to throw a complete game since 20-year-old Ken Holtzman did it in 1966. Jim Colborn, who had been Maddux's pitching coach at Triple-A Iowa, predicted that day that Maddux would be someone to watch for years to come.

"He's not a strikeout pitcher and he probably won't ever win 25 or 30 games in the big leagues," Colborn said. "But he should have a good big-league career. He's a good competitor and he's fun to watch, especially knowing that he's just finished his paper route a couple of years ago."

Despite a bit of paunch and a few crows-feet, Maddux looks and acts much the same as he did as a rookie hurler in 1986. Cubs bench coach Dick Pole, in his second stint with the organization, has seen Maddux as a young pup and a grizzled veteran.

"I was there for the first one, and the 300th one," Pole said. "It's something else. He broke that mold. He hasn't done it through power. He hasn't done it through anything else but finesse pitching."

On the first day of spring training, Maddux signed with the Cubs again after 11 long years away, inking a deal that could earn him \$24 million over three years if he reaches certain incentives. The signing not only helped heal a scar from the fatal day Maddux left, but it gave the Cubs a veteran pitcher for their young studs to learn from.

"He's been low-key about his pursuit of 300 wins. According to his dad, he's been low-key since his Little League days, preferring to observe the game and learn what he would be talking about themselves."

"A lot of that has to do with the fact that basically he's very careful and timid," Dave Maddux said. "He's just kind of downplays everything. He doesn't enjoy doing interviews. He doesn't play down the commercials. All that is because he was extremely shy, and I was the same way as a child. I believe why he downplays everything. But I believe when he gets older and he looks back on his career, he'll say I had a pretty good career."

Pretty good indeed.

Braves' Byrd rises from ashes in Phoenix

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Atlanta's faith in Paul Byrd's abilities is paying off.

Byrd won consecutive starts for the first time in nearly two years, allowing two runs in his longest outing of the season to lead the Braves to a 6-2 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks on Saturday.

"I've been able to throw strikes this year," Byrd said.

That's one thing coming back from Tommy John is they said it takes a while to get the feel on the ball, and I haven't noticed that."

Chipper Jones backed Byrd with two RBIs and Rafael Furcal had an RBI double. The Braves won for the ninth time in 10 games and improved to 17-5 since the All-Star break.

Quinton McCracken hit a lead-off home run and a sacrifice fly for the Diamondbacks, who skidded to their 22nd loss in 26 games. The defeat left Arizona (35-21) a franchise-record 42 games below .500.

"I'm a guy who maybe does a little better when he gets an opportunity to get out there on a regular basis," said McCracken, the left fielder with Luis Gonzalez sidelined. "I want to take advan-

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tage of the opportunity and help the team win."

Byrd (4-3), who missed last season with elbow problems, allowed five hits and no walks in six innings — his best performance since working seven scoreless in a 4-0 win over Cleveland on June 14-19. That was his first appearance since having ligament-replacement surgery on his right elbow July 1, 2003.

He also beat the New York Mets 6-5 last Sunday, snapping a 0-2 stretch. The last time Byrd won back-to-back starts was Sept. 14-19, 2002, for the Kansas City Royals.

John Smoltz, unavailable to close Friday night, got the last three outs after Atlanta added three more runs in the ninth. Marcus Giles and Drew had RBI singles against Randy Choate.

Edgar Gonzalez (0-5) took the loss.

Expos 8, Astros 3: Jon Rauch won his first start for the Expos, and Alex Gonzalez hit a two-run homer to help snap visiting Montreal's three-game losing streak.

Rauch (1-0), acquired from the Chicago White Sox in a trade for Carl Everett, was called up from the minor leagues Friday night. He allowed three runs and seven hits in six innings, while striking out four and walking one.

Andy Pettitte got a no-decision in his first start for the Astros since July 26, when he left with a sore left elbow. Pettitte gave up two runs, both earned, on six hits in five innings.

Rockies 9, Reds 5: In Denver, Jeremy Burnitz and Preston Wilson hit consecutive homers in the second, and the Rockies scored five in the sixth inning to defeat Cincinnati.

With the score tied at 3, the Rockies sent 10 hitters to the plate in the sixth and took an 8-3 lead. Todd Greene had an RBI single and rookie Jorge Piedra, who replaced All-Star outfielder Larry Walker, drove in two runs with his first major league hit.

John Vander Wal hit a two-run homer, and Adam Dunn and Felipe Lopez each added a solo shot for the Reds.

Dodgers 6, Phillies 3: Odalis Perez pitched seven scoreless innings to snap the visiting Phillies' four-game winning streak.

Shawn Green homered for Los Angeles, which ended a string of seven straight losses to Philadelphia (7). The Dodgers have won 25 of their last 32 games.

Perez (5-4) won for the first time in seven starts, a stretch that included five no-decisions. He allowed four hits, struck out six and walked two.

Pirates 3, Padres 1: In San Diego, Kip Wells allowed four hits in 8½ innings for his first win since July 5.

Wells (5-6) gave up a hit and a walk in the ninth inning to fall two outs short of his first complete game since Sept. 7, 2003, but did help end the Pirates' five-game skid. The right-hander had five strikeouts and walked two. Jose Mesa finished for his 31st save in 33 chances.

San Diego lost for the fifth time in six games, all at home.

Marlins 5, Brewers 0: Left Cooney hit a grand slam and Ismael Valdez pitched six shutout innings at Pinstripes Stadium to win his debut with Florida.

Valdez (10-6), acquired a week ago in a trade with San Diego, allowed two hits and walked three.

Coupe put Florida ahead 4-0 in the first inning against Wes Obermueller (3-6).

SPORTS



Santana outduels A's Hudson
in matchup of elite AL starters,
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Greg Maddux gave up four runs in five innings in San Francisco on Saturday to beat the Giants and earn his 300th career victory, the 22nd pitcher in baseball history to reach the milestone.

Maddux pitches himself into history vs. Giants

BY PAUL SULLIVAN
Chicago Tribune

LIKE A stealth bomber flying under the radar, Greg Maddux tried to sneak to his locker without notice late Saturday afternoon at SBC Park in San Francisco.

But Maddux was quickly ambushed by a dozen Chicago Cubs teammates who'd been waiting for this moment for a week. Kerry Wood popped the first champagne cork, and in a matter of seconds, Maddux was drenched and drained at the same time.

On a cloudless afternoon in the heat of a pennant race, the 38-year-old veteran had

just joined baseball's immortals, earning his 300th career victory in the Cubs 8-4 win over the Giants. Maddux became the 22nd pitcher in major league history to reach that plateau, and the first Cub pitcher since Grover Cleveland Alexander in 1924.

"It's pretty special," Maddux said. "I like to look ahead. I've never really looked back. When I'm done playing I'll look back. I'm sure I'll put myself on the back then. Right now it's about my next start and the rest of the season."

Surrounded by his family, friends and teammates, Maddux's big day was one to celebrate. But, as everyone knows well, Maddux isn't exactly the celebrating type. So he left it to everyone else to soak in the

atmosphere, hoping the spotlight would be thrown in another direction by the time he awoke on Sunday.

It took two attempts and a comeback from a three-run deficit Saturday for Maddux to reach the 300-win mark, making it difficult for his family to stay calm.

"I was so nervous and so excited," said Dave Maddux, Greg's father. "I saw him after the game and asked him if he was nervous. He said, 'No, not really.' One of us had to be nervous. It's probably best that it was me. It was a great win, and a great team effort, because he didn't pitch real well. But the bullpen came in and, boy, I got so nervous then. Every time they'd get runners on base, I'd say, 'Oh, that's the tying run. If they tie it up, we've got to go somewhere else to get the 'W.'"

But the Cubs bullpen did its job, allowing Dave's son a moment to cherish. Instead of over-powering hitters like fellow "300 Club" members like Roger Clemens, Nolan Ryan and Steve Carlton, Maddux's secret to success has always been his ability to disrupt hitters timing by changing speeds and locating his fastball.

What's the one thing that separates Maddux from his peers?

"His preparation," Cubs manager Dusty Baker said. "He's as prepared and studies as well as anybody I've ever been around. He asks a lot of questions. He asks questions that sometimes you'd think he would know. But he's trying to learn all the time."

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Ramstein escapes jam, scores big win vs. Madrid in Little League tournament

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Once Olympic heavyweights, U.S. boxers are long shots to strike gold at Athens

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Cardinals suffer backfield loss after RB Shipp breaks leg

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